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Mubarak will visit U.S. at Clinton's invitation

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday he will visit Washington sometime after U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton takes over. "I have an invitation from Clinton to visit Washington and I plan to go there after he Mr. Clinton takes over Jan. 20 and after the swearing in," Mr. Mubarak said. He made the remarks during an interview with Egyptian newspaper editors who are with him in Dakar, Senegal, to attend the third summit of the Group of 15. His remarks were carried by the state-run Middle East News Agency. Mr. Mubarak, a staunch ally of the United States, maintained close relationship with President George Bush. He apparently is willing to promote a similar link with Mr. Clinton.

GCC ministers break up, no apparent decisions

UWAIT (R) — Gulf interior ministers ended a two-day meeting in Kuwait on Sunday with no apparent decisions on cooperation in internal security. Qatar boycotted the meeting because of its border dispute with Saudi Arabia. A statement read by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary-general Abdullah Bishara, said: "The ministers... affirmed the need to put the concept of joint security into practice, through closer cooperation between (security) agencies in the GCC states, through more intensive contacts and by passing on basic information regularly." It gave no practical details. The ministers said Iraq was a threat to security and stability in the region and they called on Baghdad to comply with all the U.N. resolutions which set the terms for a Gulf war ceasefire last year. The meeting was in preparation for a summit meeting of the GCC in Abu Dhabi next month. Meanwhile, GCC finance and economy ministers meeting in Saudi Arabia postponed a decision on Sunday on unifying customs tariffs, a key to better trade relations with the European community.

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AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1992, JUMADA AL OULA 28, 1413

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g to address the on Monday

AN (Petra) — His Majesty Hussein will Monday deliver address to the Arab Nation graduation ceremony of a course at the Royal Commission and Staff College. The king will deal with various issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf crisis and international relations.

own Prince offers condolences to Israeli family

AN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has offered condolences to the family of a Jewish youth who was killed in a shooting in Jerusalem.

to rules out incitation with government

CHI (AP) — Former Minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she would not join the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She said she would board a train Monday for Islamabad, although the government said they were not needed seats. "Even if we have reservations, the government can't stop us," she said in a news conference. "The government is on its own." Ms. Bhutto, who has been ordered to stay in her hometown in southern Pakistan, for 30 days after she was arrested last week, said she was not planning to return to Pakistan with Daton-wielding and thousands of members of her party were arrested and jailed. Ms. Bhutto rejected a reported call by government for talks. "There is no reconciliation," she said.

in bomb blasts kills 40

HATHI, India (R) — Forty people were killed, many of them children, when two controlled bombs exploded simultaneously in the Indian city of Hathi, police said Sunday. At least 38 people died after a bomb exploded as a bus was leaving a crowded late Saturday afternoon. Special Branch Superintendent Abani Samra said. Two were killed and six injured in a second explosion minutes later in front of a guest house where state legislators stay. Police are blaming the blasts on the outlawed Bodo Force. It wants to break out of the Indian state of Assam and set up a separate state for the Bodo tribe within the Indian state.

r faces more 'Iraqgate' drama

ON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major's crisis government faces a fresh hit on Monday over an Iraq scandal, with a poll showing people do not trust him to tell the truth about the affair. The Labour Party is looking for a special parliamentary session on the subject to implicate Major in an alleged conspiracy to cover up weapons sales by the ruling Conservative Party in breach of their embargo.



Palestinians likely to attend 8th round of peace talks without demanding delay

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinians are likely to attend the next round of peace talks at its scheduled date despite strong demands for a delay within Palestinian ranks, Palestinian sources in Tunis said Sunday. The PLO appeared to be moving towards endorsing a decision to attend the next round as scheduled at the end of a two-day tug-of-war between advocates of a delay and opponents of the move who voiced their opinions during discussions between Palestinian negotiators and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in Tunis. Strengthening internal Palestinian consensus and pressuring Israel to stop its "intransigence" in dealing with the Palestinians were the main reasons behind a call for delaying the talks, scheduled for Dec. 7. The call is advocated by at least five members of the PLO Executive Committee. There had been vocal support

for a delay from members of the Palestine National Council in Tunis, Amman, Jerusalem and Damascus but chief Palestinian negotiator said Sunday that the Palestinian negotiating team advocated a coordinated Arab position. "The three other Arab parties have agreed to attend the eighth session next month. We advocate firm coordination with the other Arab participants, especially with regard to suspending the talks," Haidar Abdul Shafi told the Associated Press in Tunis Sunday. "The time has come to take a look at what has happened and reassess the situation. This will take time and if the negotiators return to Washington Dec. 7, we will not have any chance; we will only have a repeat of round seven," a senior Palestine Central Council (PCC) member said in Amman. PLO insiders say the failure of the talks to progress on any issue related to the Palestinian-Israeli track and the increasing pessimism

among Palestinians over the ineffectiveness of the talks will force the Palestinian leadership to reconsider its position sooner or later. But many members of the PCC fear the PLO is in danger of losing clout among its supporters if the Israeli-Palestinian talks continue to be deadlocked. Meanwhile the tug-of-war between the "kitchen cabinet," which supports that talks continue on Dec. 7 and a growing revisionist group within the PLO Executive Committee continued to grow. "Discussions are continuing today (Sunday) and may go on until the early hours of the morning," Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Bureau in Tunis told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. "The number of people calling for a delay of round eight of the peace talks is growing because of the lack of progress in the Israeli-Palestinian track," said Mr. Hilal. "We believe that international and Arab consultations must take

place before the talks continue and go nowhere." Referring to the Israeli proposal of limited administrative authority for the Palestinian "inhabitants" of the occupied territories as the "Bantustan" plan — in reference to the apartheid rule in South Africa — Mr. Hilal said the feeling in Tunis was that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue had reached a "tragic" deadlock. PLO groups opposed to the resumption of the talks under current circumstances boycotted the Tunis meeting. Opposition to the talks is growing within Palestinian ranks and the PLO's only rival group in the occupied territories the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) snubbed the PLO leader Yasser Arafat last week when its leadership failed to show up for a planned meeting in Khartoum. Supporters of delaying the next round of talks fear that the negotiating team will be pressured into making more concessions if it

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Algeria tells foreigners not to aid militants or see relations suffer

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, locked in a bloody struggle with fundamentalist Muslims, warned unnamed foreign states at the weekend to stop supporting the militants or see relations suffer. "If it is proved these states are giving direct support... these operations will affect relations between Algeria and the states which are proved to be plotting operations," Prime Minister Abdelkader Belkaid said in a television broadcast. "Even if the state itself or the government is not directly intervening, but if a government permits within its own country the carrying out of some activities hostile to our country... this will affect our relations with it." Mr. Belkaid gave no names but diplomats and Algerian commentators saw Iran, Sudan, Libya and indirectly Pakistan as immediate targets. Algerian newspapers also criticized France, which ran Algeria as part of its own territory for 130 years until 1962, saying that at the very least its attitude towards the fundamentalists was ambivalent. France, however, recently expelled two prominent Algerian fundamentalists. Mr. Belkaid said security problems has not ended but were under control. He blamed ex-

tremists linked to the "dissolved, so-called FIS (Islamic Salvation Front)." Before his broadcast on Saturday, gunmen shot dead two policemen. Security forces reported killing six militants. This month at least 15 members of the security forces and the same number of Muslim militants have been killed. "The main countries are undoubtedly Sudan, Libya, Pakistan and Iran," said one European diplomat on Sunday. "Pakistan comes into the picture with the so-called 'Afghans' but I don't think there is any direct link because Pakistan can't afford it." Many Algerians, known as "Afghans" after training in Pakistan to fight Soviet troops in Afghanistan, returned to back the FIS in its bid to make Algeria an Islamic state. The authorities blame FIS extremists for the deaths of about 170 members of the security forces since last February. "Libya allows certain activities to happen both on the financial level and with weapons, though it is very difficult to prove," the diplomat said. A foreign military attaché commented: "There is a direct line from Sudan to Algeria via Libya and there are Iranian-financed

training camps for 'terrorists' near Khartoum." Algeria last week reduced its ties with Tehran to a "symbolic" level after recalling its ambassador early this year and telling Iran's ambassador to go home. Iranian leaders publicly supported the FIS and criticized Algeria's cancellation last January of a general election in which the then-legal FIS took a landslide first-round lead. Last week, Algeria accused Tehran of "hostility and interference," a charge that has been echoed by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, which is also battling fundamentalism. Algerian foreign ministry sources suggested that Algerian students, told by Iran they could complete courses there, had been recruited by Tehran for subversion back home. El Watan newspaper said many Algerians had asked the presidency to break ties with Iran, Sudan, Pakistan and Libya after an airport bomb attack in August. It described Sudan as Iran's "main staging point with the crime," accused Pakistan of sheltering Algerian "Afghans" and said Libya "reportedly financed Algerian fundamentalism until recently."

Qadhafi thinks Lockerbie crisis over, hopes West will drop the case

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi thinks he has survived the Lockerbie crisis and hopes the West will drop the case without forcing him to hand over the two Libyan suspects in the bombing, diplomats say. "The Libyan leaders are in an euphoric mood because they consider they have won a battle by resisting the West's demands in the Lockerbie crisis," a Tripoli-based North African diplomat told Reuters. "They are now making eyes at the West and playing the tone: 'Lockerbie, forget it,'" he said. Last week, in a sign that it hopes to open "a new page" in its relations with the West, Libya named Western-educated Omar Montasar as foreign minister. He replaced Ibrahim Bichari, who Western intelligence services believe headed Libyan intelligence when the Pan Am flight was blown up over Lockerbie in 1989 and a French UTA DC-10 exploded over Niger in 1989. Some 471 people died in the two disasters. After defying U.S., British and U.N. demands to hand over the suspects for a year, Colonel Qadhafi makes no secret of his belief that the worst of the crisis is over. "We passed through the crisis safely," he told the General People's Congress, Libya's version of a parliament, last week, pointing out that outgoing U.S. President

George Bush took no military action over the Lockerbie affair. "What is positive in the Bush era is that he acted through the United Nations and did not undertake individual action," Colonel Qadhafi said. Diplomats say a number of factors in recent months including Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election have combined to make Colonel Qadhafi believe the crisis has eased. "Bush was busy with the internal problems which complicated the presidential elections, and in Britain, (Prime Minister John) Major has his hands tied with the economic crisis," the North African diplomat said. Qadhafi hopes now that Bill Clinton's election will give him a new chance to skip over the Lockerbie crisis at the price of concessions to U.S. oil interests and Western demands on terrorism, but not of the handing over the two Libyan suspects," the diplomat added. Colonel Qadhafi warmly welcomed Mr. Clinton's election, saying "the Democrats camp is a natural ally of the oppressed countries." A senior Western diplomat based in Tripoli said Libya was reassessing its long-standing position that it is ready in theory to hand over the two suspects while attaching conditions that make it inapplicable. Last month Libya ignored a

British proposal to meet Libyan officials to arrange a hand over through the United Nations or the Arab League, as suggested early this year by Tripoli. Officials simply said they were not aware of the offer. Last week the General People's Congress repeated that the two suspects could "stand trial before a just and fair court to be agreed upon." But diplomatic sources in New York said Libya was playing for time before a possible new sanctions vote in the Security Council and the U.N. was unlikely to take the offer seriously. The Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya on April 15 after it failed to obey Resolution 731 requesting the handover. The U.N. is expected to review the sanctions in mid-December, possibly widening the air and arms embargoes. One European diplomat in Tripoli said Colonel Qadhafi's proposal last week to distribute half Libya's oil revenues directly to the people could mean he expects a U.N. oil embargo and he is preparing to rally the population round him. The envoy said relatives of the Lockerbie victims had been lobbying Mr. Clinton and he was reported to be sympathetic to an oil embargo. If the Security Council banned

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2 wounded in police van ambush in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Muslim extremists opened fire on a police van in southern Egypt and wounded the driver and a plainclothes security man, police said Sunday. A police official, who refused to be identified, said the attack happened Saturday night. He said the extremists ambushed the van as it carried police inspector Colonel Taha El Zahed's from the town of Dairut to Assiut, 37 miles (60 km) further south. Both towns have been the focus of Muslim militant violence in recent months. The source said Col. Zahed's driver was wounded when a bullet hit his left leg and he was taken to a hospital in Dairut. An undercover policeman sitting in the back of the van was also wounded. Police accompanying Col. Zahed opened fire on the assailants but they escaped. The attack happened one day after extremists staged a failed bomb attack on a police patrol in Dairut. 163 miles (260 km) south of Cairo. No one was injured and the two attackers fled. Muslim extremists this year have stepped up violence against police and Christian copts and have declared tourists as their new target. Since January, 76 people have been killed and more than 120 wounded. The dead include a British tourist and two Britons, five Germans and three Russians are among the wounded.

On Saturday, the government said it thwarted a sabotage and assassination plot by Muslim extremists that targeted strategic installations, police officers and "important personalities." It said the details came from the confession of a known terrorist who was arrested Friday. Yemenis ignore strike call

Yemenis ignore strike call

SANAA (R) — Yemenis went about their business as normal on Sunday, ignoring an opposition call for a general strike over a delay in multi-party elections. Opposition parties, which plan to meet on Monday to discuss their next move, accused the government of using threats to prevent the strike. Shops in the main streets in the capital Sanaa were open and markets packed with shoppers. Students attended classes and government offices and banks were open. Witnesses in the southern port city of Aden said the strike had not been observed there either. The people's General Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and 12 pro-government parties said in a joint statement on Saturday that the strike call was illegitimate and was not in the interest of the people.

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Jewish youths Sunday sit with their books in a narrow street in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem to protest the stabbing of a Jewish religious student by a Palestinian woman (AFP photo)

Officer shoots soldier, Palestinian; woman shot after stabbing Israeli

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli officer accidentally shot another officer and a Palestinian woman in the occupied West Bank Sunday, the army and Arab reports said. In other violence, an Arab woman stabbed and injured a Jew in Jerusalem's Old City and was shot and injured herself, and an attempt to bomb a passenger bus was foiled. The army said that the officer's gun was accidentally discharged by a lieutenant while he pursued an Arab suspect in the Ein Beit Ilma refugee camp near the town of Nablus. Palestinian reporters said the shooting occurred when one soldier tried to stop a colleague from hitting a 48-year-old Palestinian woman after she tried to stop him from hitting her 19-year-old son. The gun that misfired belonged

to the soldier who was trying to hit the woman the Palestinian reports said, and wounded the woman and the officer who was trying to protect her. The army identified the wounded officer as a captain and said he was in moderate condition. Palestinian reporters said the woman was wounded in both her legs. In the walled Old City of Jerusalem, an 18-year-old Palestinian woman stabbed and lightly wounded a Jewish seminary student in the neck, Israeli police said. A second student drew his pistol and shot the woman twice in the leg, the police said. The knifing occurred near the site of a Nov. 16 grenade attack on a crowded Muslim market that left one Palestinian man dead and another eight wounded. Police

suspect Jewish extremists were responsible for that attack. In Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel, a bomb was successfully defused by police sappers after it was discovered on a bus, Israeli Radio said. The bomb was placed on the bus sometime during the ride from Tel Aviv and was discovered by the driver once the journey was over, the radio said. The bomb attempt came one day after police foiled what they suspect was an attempt by three Palestinian men to explode a car bomb near Tel Aviv. Two boys were wounded while handling an explosive device they found in the West Bank village of Kibrit Nusseirya on Friday, the army announced Sunday. The blast left a 12-year-old boy with serious burns and a 10-year-old boy with moderate burns.

Majali says agenda does not touch on Palestinian land

By Jane Arraf
Reuters
AMMAN — Jordan has asked Israel to revise a controversial draft agreement charting future peace talks, the head of the Jordanian delegation said on Sunday. Chief negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali said the proposed new language would make clear that Jordan, in addition to seeking Israeli withdrawal from its own land, does not accept Israeli jurisdiction over other parts of the occupied territories. "This makes clear that... I am discussing my borders, the Jordan-Israeli border (in the talks), without touching on the Palestinian occupied territories," he told Reuters. Amman wants back two small

strips of land in the Jordan Valley area occupied by Israel after the 1967 war. Dr. Majali told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after returning from the latest round of peace talks in Washington late on Saturday that the new wording was addressed at unclear language which he originally described as a loophole. "We've put in clear phrasing that does not allow for argument," he said. He said Israeli negotiators also consultation with their own government had also asked for changes in the document which Jordan had rejected. He would not disclose the requested changes. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders had raised concerns with Jordanian officials

that the language of the draft agenda does not explicitly call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories including Jerusalem or the right of return for Palestinian refugees. The pact, which envisages an eventual peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, is the most visible sign of progress in the otherwise stumbling Arab-Israeli peace talks. The agenda, hammered out in Washington, still has to be ratified by the two governments. Dr. Majali told Petra the agenda includes "many points that back the Palestinian side, whether in the transitional period or when a final solution to the Palestinian problem is reached."

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Iraq pessimistic about Aziz mission

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Sunday it was not pinning much hope on a mission by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to ask the Security Council to ease or lift sanctions in force since soon after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party Al Thawra warned against over optimism and said Mr. Aziz's mission was necessary to exploit the situation following the defeat of George Bush in the U.S. presidential elections. "The vigorous diplomatic move initiated by Iraq... following the dramatic collapse of Bush puts the ball in the international court," the newspaper declared. "But we should not be driven by enthusiasm with regard to this sound, correct and timely move," Al Thawra warned. "We do not attach great hopes nor are pessimistic."

Mr. Aziz, who is due to address the council on Monday, left Baghdad on Friday with the declared aim of trying to persuade members to ease economic sanctions against Baghdad. A similar mission in March failed but Mr. Aziz said in remarks before leaving Baghdad that he hoped the removal of Mr. Bush and the election of Democrat Bill Clinton would lead to a better understanding of Iraq's attitude. Mr. Aziz will argue that it was time to ease the U.N. trade embargo, particularly oil exports, because Iraq has met nearly all the U.N.'s demands. U.N. representatives, however, said the council would likely not agree to ease economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf War. The U.N. officials said Baghdad has continued to be evasive in providing information about its nuclear weapons programme. Cease-fire terms require Iraq to

cooperate in dismantling the programme before sanctions can be lifted. "There's been no movement to date which would give the council any inclination to consider lifting or modifying the sanctions any time in the near future," said Andre Ergos of Hungary, who is chairing the Security Council this month. Al Thawra said Mr. Aziz would put before the council "facts, figures, documents and evidence" that it has met its Gulf war ceasefire commitments. The ceasefire was negotiated after the U.S.-led allies pushed Iraq's troops out of Kuwait at the end of February last year. The Security Council is expected to delay its periodic review of the trade embargo until after hearing from Mr. Aziz. Rolf

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Port's closing threatens millions in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Faced with a halving of food rations keeping a half-million Somalis alive, U.N. officials tried Saturday to get feuding warlords to allow food-laden ships to offload their cargo in Mogadishu's port.

U.N. officials met into the night Saturday with the two warlords' representatives in a last-ditch effort to get them to open the port before the Red Cross is forced Sunday to cut the two daily meals it's giving a half-million Somalis in Mogadishu to one.

"This is the worst problem we have had in months. There could be a new crisis in this area of Somalia," Red Cross spokesman Horst Hamburg said in an interview in his office in Mogadishu.

The continued closure of the port also threatens millions of starving Somalis outside the capital.

Three ships — carrying 22,000 tonnes of food for Somalis and supplies for U.N. troops here — have been waiting in the harbour for a week as relief officials tried to get the warlords to open the port.

The warlords' troops have fired

missiles at ships ignoring their previous bans on use of the port, the most important entryway for food to this famine-ravaged nation.

Six planes delivered 100 tonnes of food Saturday to an airport outside Mogadishu, but that was just a fraction of what ships can deliver.

The air shipments will allow the Red Cross to feed the half-million Somalis in its 340 kitchens in and around Mogadishu only one meal a day, down from two. The cutback will barely prevent the people from starving and will make them more susceptible to disease, Mr. Hamburg said.

Food from ships is not only needed in the capital, it is also desperately needed by Somalis in other towns and in the drought-ravaged countryside.

Two million Somalis are in danger of starvation in one of the worst famines on record in the world. At least 300,000 people have died from famine and clan-based warfare in this Horn of Africa since January 1991, the United Nations estimates.

The dispute that has stranded the three ships — and more are

on the way — is typical of the problem relief agencies are having getting aid to the dying.

One warlord, Gen. Mohammad Farah Aidid, controls the southern half of Mogadishu, and believes he is not getting enough food aid to go to his area and to deprive Gen. Aidid's men of assistance.

Outside the capital, armed bandits prowled, looking for food convoys to attack and capture. The bandits sell the food, donated by other countries and destined for the starving, at inflated prices on the black market. Mogadishu's warlords have little control over the gunmen outside the capital.

Russell L. Ulrey, logistics officer of the World Food Programme here, said U.N. officials were meeting into the night Saturday with the warlords' representatives to get the port open and win assurances that food convoys within the capital would not be attacked. But there was no indication of a breakthrough late Saturday.

In rain and ruins, Lebanon celebrates its independence

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon celebrated the 49th anniversary of its independence with a rain-soaked military parade through the war-ravaged capital Sunday — and with almost 90 per cent of its territory controlled by foreign armies.

Winds howled and thunder boomed as a 21-gun salvo was fired amid shell-shattered buildings to start the 80-minute parade at the Museum Crossing, once a gauntlet of death between the city's Christian and mostly Muslim halves.

During the 1975-90 civil war, thousands of people were killed by sniper fire and shelling in the no-man's-land which divided the capital.

The Independence Day celebration was held under tight security. All approaches to the scene were sealed off by Lebanese police and soldiers.

President Elias Hrawi and parliament speaker Nabih Berri attended the ceremony. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri did not appear, but he sent a representative to join other Lebanese officials and Arab and Western diplomats under a canopy in the red, white and green colours of the Lebanese flag.

No reason was given for Mr. Hariri's absence, but he has skipped other public functions since taking office one month ago, apparently for security reasons.

Three years ago, just minutes after an Independence Day reception, President Rene Monawad was killed in a massive bomb explosion only 17 days after his election.

Token units of the army, navy and air force filed past the reviewing stand to the cadence of military music as rain splashed the guests.

The president and the officials often bent to wipe their shoes and clothing. Many soldiers broke rank to chase their wind-blown berets.

Columns of U.S.-made M-40 tanks, Russian-designed T-55 and T-54 tanks, French-made M-113 armoured personnel carriers equipped with anti-aircraft guns and jeep-mounted missile launchers rumbled past the stand.

The display of armour included 155mm U.S.-made Howitzers, 130mm long-range Russian-made field guns and truck-mounted 40-barrelled rocket-launchers, reminding memories of the worst shelling duels in the last two years of the civil war.

Bad weather grounded the four aging Hawker Hunter jet fighters that make up Lebanon's air force, although their pilots had trained for the occasion throughout the week.

Lebanon, which was part of the Ottoman Empire until World War I, came under French mandate in 1920. The small Mediterranean country gained independence in 1943.

The eruption of the civil war in April 1975 left the country in shambles with foreign troops present on nearly every inch of its territory.

Neighbouring Syria, Lebanon's main power broker, has 40,000 troops deployed over 70 per cent

of Lebanese territory. The Syrians entered Lebanon as peacekeepers under a 1976 Arab League mandate.

Israel, Syria's arch foe, occupies a 1,100-square-kilometre zone in South Lebanon to protect its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

In a speech at the army command Saturday, Mr. Hrawi said that if the ongoing Middle East peace talks fail to bring about an Israeli withdrawal, the Lebanese army will do battle.

"If the peace process, God forbid, does not produce an Israeli withdrawal, we shall all be prepared to liberate our south with every drop of our blood," Mr. Hrawi told the army officers. Wild applause greeted his remarks.

A force of 5,800 U.N. peacekeeping troops, drawn from 10 countries, police a South Lebanese zone that overlaps with the Israeli-held enclave.

In Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, a 3,000 member contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guard irregulars and several Palestinian factions maintain bases.

The editor of Beirut's independent Al Anwar newspaper, Rafik Khouri, said in an editorial that Sunday's Independence Day observance was "a celebration in the absence of the remembrance."

"Lebanon is not independent today, but even in the relative meaning of the word," said Mr. Khouri.

Egypt cracks down on those threatening tourism industry

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak's government is getting tough with Muslim extremists whose attacks on foreign tourists threaten Egypt's top money earner — tourism.

Meanwhile, determined tourism officials travel the globe with the message that Egypt is safe for tourists.

Wherever tourists go, extra police are on duty. Patrols roam highways. There's talk of bringing helicopter gunships into the fight against terrorism.

A measure of the government's resolve to save the \$3 billion industry is its use of a new tactic in the anti-terror drive: Making examples of accused terrorists by bulldozing their houses.

But the security question is tricky. Officials realise that police cover must not be so obtrusive that it risks frightening the tourists being protected.

"What kind of tourist wants a soldier with a machine gun next to him?" asked Samir Darwish, undersecretary of state for tourism promotion. "We want people to feel at home, to have a good time. Egyptian people are friendly, hospitable."

Extra security is particularly heavy in middle Egypt, where two terrorist attacks in three weeks killed a British nurse, Sharon Hill, and wounded two other British tourists, five Germans and two Egyptian employees.

Security vehicles now accompany tourist buses along the main highway from Minya, south of Cairo, to Luxor, a major tourist city. Police cars patrol the 400 kilometres stretch round the clock, one car to every five kilometres.

Mohammad Al Bouhy, general manager of the Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor, said extra security isn't needed there or in Aswan to the south.

"Every man and woman in these cities makes a living off of tourism," he said. "We won't let anything happen."

Interior Minister Abdul Halim Moussa, in charge of security, said such local cooperation is key.



Italian actress Sophia Loren (right) is seen with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata during a ceremony nominating the actress as a goodwill ambassador (AFP photo)

Sophia Loren in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — Sophia Loren, one-time street urchin turned glamorous film star, flew to Somalia Sunday on a U.N. mission to highlight the plight of starving children there.

Loren, accompanied by representatives of the U.N.-High Commissioner for Refugees, will visit the southern town of Baidoa where aid workers are struggling to help thousands of homeless, destitute and hungry people.

Loren is one of several Hollywood personalities recruited by the U.N. to draw attention to the need for more aid for Somalia, where at least one million people are threatened with death from starvation.

Actress Audrey Hepburn was the last to visit Somalia, a country racked by bitter clan fighting since former President Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted in January last year.

Loren will visit feeding centres and an orphanage in Baidoa. She will later cross to north-east Kenya to visit refugee centres along the desert border with Somalia, where thousands more refugees are camped in primitive conditions.

Gunmen kill Turkish policeman in Istanbul

ANKARA (R) — Gunmen shot dead a policeman in Istanbul during a raid on the campus of Marmara University Saturday night, the Anatolian News Agency reported.

The policeman, who was shot in the head, was the fifth killed in the city during the past week.

Turkish newspapers said Sunday the outlawed left-wing urban guerrilla group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left), claimed responsibility for Saturday's killing.

A left-wing group, Kizilordu (Red Army), said it carried out an ambush in Istanbul Tuesday in which four policemen were killed.

But police discounted the claim, saying Dev-Sol was behind the attack.

Libya ready to hand over Lockerbie suspects — daily

DUBAI (R) — Libya, facing the threat of tougher U.N. sanctions, has again said it is ready to surrender two agents wanted by the West for their alleged role in the bombing of an airliner over Scotland, an Arab paper reported Sunday.

The UAE newspaper Al Ittihad, quoting diplomatic sources, said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had received a message from Tripoli saying it accepted that the two should stand trial before a "just court which should be agreed upon."

Diplomatic sources in New York, who believed Libya was playing for time ahead of a possible new sanctions vote, told Reuters the world body was unlikely to take the offer seriously.

The U.N. is expected to review sanctions against Libya in mid-December and possibly within the embargo if Tripoli does not comply with demands to hand over the two for their alleged role in the 1988 bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, in which 271 people were killed.

The sources said copies of the Libyan message, similar in tone to others which had led to nothing, had been handed to British and French U.N. envoys with whom Dr. Ghali was expected to discuss the issue Monday or Tuesday.

The Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo against Libya in April for failing to hand over the two men — Abdul Basit Ali Mohammad Ali Megrahi and Ali Amin Khalifa Fhimah.

Britain has assured Libya the two men would stand a fair trial in Scotland and expressed readiness to meet Libyan officials to arrange any hand over.

Arab sources say one proposal is to hand over the two men at the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva in the presence of representatives from the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League.

Libya has already complied with part of Security Council Resolution 731, which demands the hand over, by providing Britain with information on Tripoli's role in the Irish Republican Army fighting British rule in Northern Ireland.

It has also helped France in its investigation of the 1989 downing of a UTA DC10 over Niger in which 171 people were killed although Paris complained last month that Tripoli had stopped a French judge from visiting Libya.

Al Hayat newspaper, a London-based Arabic language daily, said Sunday Washington planned to increase pressure on Libya by calling for a freeze of its worldwide assets.

Libya controls some \$6.5 billion in foreign assets which it has moved to countries not expected to join any widening of the embargo, bankers said.

Mideast negotiators await new man in White House

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — After 13 months of frustration, Arabs and Israelis have suspended serious attempts to make peace and are waiting for U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton to save the negotiations from disaster.

Leaving Washington after another fruitless round of peace talks, Syria and the Palestinians set the incoming Clinton administration a challenge: Find a way to break the logjam in the negotiations within a few weeks of taking office or face the eventual threat of the peace process collapsing.

"Three or four months after the arrival of the new president to the White House, I think the Arab parties, if they see the rounds are continuing without progress...then it would be time to reconsider the whole thing," chief Syrian negotiator Mouwafak Al Alfi told a news conference Friday.

Syria and the other Arab parties — Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians — appear ready to have an eighth round of negotiations with the Israelis beginning on Dec. 7. Hopes of progress are virtually non-existent.

The outgoing Bush administration pressed hard for the talks to take place. U.S. officials were worried that if there were a long gap between rounds until after Mr. Clinton takes over on Jan. 20, the talks might collapse entirely.

"In our view, in the Middle East and especially in terms of

the Arab-Israeli negotiations, status, or status quo or pauses can be a formula, not for standing still, but for going backwards," said Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian.

"That's why it's very important for these negotiations to proceed."

It was evident from the seventh round just completed that the parties were not interested in making real progress.

Optimistic analysts believe they may try to gain favour with the new administration by reserving any concessions until Mr. Clinton takes over.

Pessimists say any excuse for not making painful concessions will do.

After 13 months of negotiations, almost the best that can be said is that the parties understand each other's positions more clearly. This achievement should not be minimised since it is a prerequisite for progress.

"The real challenge for the parties now is to develop approaches that will enable each of them to begin meeting one another's requirements on their basic concerns," said Mr. Djerejian.

On the face of it, it is hard to believe that the Clinton team will be any more successful than the Bush administration in persuading the parties to make concessions.

Mr. Bush's Secretary of State James Baker had enormous personal prestige and earned the

respect of both Arab and Jewish negotiators through years of past work.

None of the names as Mr. Clinton's pick for state has stirred much interest in any case, several weeks for him to win Senate confirmation and meet the important region.

Second, Mr. Clinton White House favours promises to be more than Mr. Bush and is on non-democratic such as Syria, hardly success in mediating Israeli conflict.

Third, support a process in Israeli public opinion is a year of frustration appointment.

Fourth, rejection the region; such as Hizbollah allies in flexing their muscle, doubtedly launch a to scuttle the peace Mr. Clinton takes.

Fifth, Mr. Clinton promised to cancel U.S. economy and arms. Unlike Mr. B. intimately involved: East peace process have the time.

Nonetheless, this new administration is of change of the fresh minds tackling problem. That is waiting for.

Mitterrand deeply hurt over Israel allegations that France supported

TEL AVIV (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand said he was deeply hurt by allegations that his country developed Iraq's military capacity.

Mr. Mitterrand, speaking from France on Israeli television, said accusations by Israel and others that France had boosted the range of Iraqi Scud missiles were baseless.

"These accusations raised criticism among our Israeli friends and this hurt me deeply," the French leader said.

Mr. Mitterrand is scheduled to visit Israel in four days time.

He said the criticism levelled at France was "very unjustified, very one sided, and very slanted."

During the Gulf War Iraq fired a number of Scud ground-to-ground missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia, causing some damage but few casualties.

Israeli sources charged France with helping Iraq militarily, both by improving the Scuds' range as well as by assisting Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Mr. Mitterrand vehemently denied accusations that France helped Iraq's nuclear programme while he was leader.

"As president, I always refused any nuclear assistance to Saddam Hussein," he said.

Prior to Mr. Mitterrand's election to the presidency in 1981, France was involved in the Iraqi nuclear programme. In 1981, Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor, a bombing raid.

The president also rejected Israeli criticism of his handling of the controversy surrounding a wreath-laying ceremony on the grave of former Vichy leader Marshal Philippe Petain.

"This is an internal problem...not an external problem," Mr. Mitterrand stated.

On Nov. 11, Mr. Mitterrand laid a wreath on Marshal Petain's grave — a tradition which predates the president's election — sparking a political furor within France.

Jewish organisations, right wing figures, and some Socialists said the move amounted to recognition of the Vichy regime.

the World Regime, which collapsed the German Nazi ship thousands of camps.

Mr. Mitterrand promised to make a wreath-laying ceremony acknowledged that the regime was guilty during the war.

When the furor Mitterrand argued he was honouring who led France to the Germans in World War II, the politician who Vichy regime 25 years.

The French leader attacked the French ongoing Arab-Israeli He said Palestine given the right determination on is "yet to be defined."

Israel has rejected calls for statehood captured from during Middle East War, as limited autonomy is

King Fahd: GCC is here to stay

KUWAIT (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd assured other Arab Gulf states in an interview published Sunday that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will not be affected by a border dispute between his country and Qatar.

"We will safeguard this group even if we disagree because disagreement sometimes removes imperatives and improves decisions," King Fahd was quoted as saying by Al Siyassah, a pro-government Kuwaiti newspaper.

"The GCC was established to stay, and it is going to continue," he said.

The Saudi king rarely gives interviews. By granting one to Al Siyassah at this time, he seemed to underline the importance he places on unity among the six Arab states who comprise the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Qatar has boycotted the council's successive meetings of defence and interior ministers. The

defence ministers met a week ago, and the interior ministers' session was to end Sunday night. Both meetings were in Kuwait.

Qatar's absence stirred fears that it might boycott the GCC summit scheduled for next month in Abu Dhabi or withdraw from the council altogether.

The border dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar erupted in shooting last August in which two people died.

Qatar accused Saudi forces of penetrating 12 kilometres (seven miles) into its territory, but Saudi Arabia says the dispute was between tribal chieftains, not soldiers.

Al Siyassah quoted King Fahd as saying the Gulf Cooperation Council was "too strong to be affected by a passing summer cloud" and "differences of opinion stay between the disagreeing parties and do not spill to the existence of the council."

The Saudi monarch was quoted as saying all council members attend the summit in one of seven shielded palaces in the United Arab Emirates.

The council grew out of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Bahrain. It was in 1981 to counter threat from Iran during 88 war with Iraq.

"It is a mistake for them to think that they can put and feed them are disputes among the same house," King Fahd was quoted as saying.

The king acknowledged dispute with Qatar but he added: "and we still believe, if we deal with it in ways we will."

"Now we are waiting summit meeting in Arab Emirates...I will be there, we will all be there, been in the past,"

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Pif et Hercule
18:10 Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Sila
21:10 A Fine Romance
22:00 News in English
22:30 Touch and Die

PRAYER TIMES

06:45 Fajr
06:06 (Sunrise) Duha
11:22 Dhuhr
14:13 'Asr
16:37 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfiah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622368
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 655326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold, cloudy and rainy and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, and winds will be northwesterly fresh and sea high.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 7/13
Aqaba 24/14
Deserts 5/15

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 12 / 22

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 12, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 77 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Wahab A'wad 746070
Dr. Adnan Zaghari 898140
Dr. Hana Massoud 750197
Dr. Salah Al A'oud 649028
First pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 776336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 947632

DEED: Dr. Abdul Majed Muna 275393
Alqadi pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Issa Al Omari 901266
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 192, 021111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 823824, 654932
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/322
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6647174
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musawwir Hospital 6672210
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Rufan, Al-Mahajra 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511126
Army, Marfa 89161115
Queen Abla Hospital 60224059
Small Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900550
Rm Sina Hospital (09)980732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

BEDOU: Pinesa Bama Hospital (02)22335
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227720
Rm Al Nafsa Hospital (02)247100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (09)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30 Bangkok (RJ)
12:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
22:20 London (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:25 London (RJ)
06:30 Toronto/Montreal (RJ)
06:35 London (RJ)
06:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
06:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:50 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Dhahran (RJ)
07:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
07:05 Muscat (RJ)
07:10 Dammam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Khartoum (SU)
06:35 Aden (AL)
06:35 Cairo (RJ)
06:40 Jeddah (RJ)
06:45 Paris, Beirut (AF)
06:50 Vienna, Laraca (OS)
06:55 Dubai, Damascus (EM)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price distributions

Apple (red)
Banana (Muskam)
Beet
Cabbage
Carrot
Cauliflower
Cucumber (small)
Eggplant
Garlic
Grapefruit
Lemon
Marrow (large)
Marrow (small)
Onion (dry)
Orange
Pepper (hot)
Pepper (sweet)
Potato
Tomato
Fig
Grape
Spinach
Mint
Green Olive

GOIN

EXHIBITIONS

FILM

مكتبة من الأصل

Home News

Queen discusses Petra with UNESCO archaeology team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Rania met Sunday afternoon at Al Ma'wa Palace with a team of experts from UNESCO's Division of the Cultural Heritage. The seven-member multidisciplinary team is comprised of experts in national parks, archaeological urban organisation, stone crack treatment, water control and irrigation, excavation and museums. It has been operating in cooperation with the Department of Land and Survey and the Department of Antiquities and has been successful in defining a 26,000-hectare boundary for the Petra archaeological and national park which will be declared a protected zone. Its initial studies recommended, among other things, a detailed survey of the antiquities at the site, the completion of an ongoing excavation and restoration project in Petra.

In the morning, the Queen inaugurated an exhibition of modern jewellery and ceramics.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

RSS and EC to cooperate on green issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Environmental Research Centre (ERC) has recently concluded a U.S. economic contract agreement with a German consultancy firm providing for a joint operation between the two institutions in environmental fields. The contract will be financed by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) as part of the Second Cooperation Protocol between the EC and Jordan.

Satellite dish exhibit opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Post and Communications Minister Jamal Al Jarrah opened Sunday at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman an exhibition of satellite dishes. Seven Jordanian specialised companies are participating in the three-day exhibition which is organised by the Al Madina Information and Business Establishment. The Expo displays the latest satellite dishes technology. The opening ceremony was attended by Secretary General of the Ministry of Post and Communications Abdullah Al Jazi and several officials.

Art exhibition captures Jordan's spirit

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Documenting life in Jordan has been the quest of mankind since its existence; and it has been done so by many different means.

Amman Khammash, a young architect, has used his special talent as a painter to preserve the spirit of Jordan for generations to come.

The artist, a refreshing presence in the artistic world of Amman, inaugurated his exhibition Thursday at the Spanish Cultural Centre to a full house.

His water colours and oils on paper are mostly representations of human settlements, not only of the familiar landscape of Jordan.

The disciplined contours and alignment of houses and trees convey the scientific mind of the architect, but any other military stops there. The artist's imagination is overpowered. The abstract paintings alternate with more classical representations, wonderfully complementing each other and the landscape they immortalise.

The overwhelming feeling is that of places inhabited, cosy, clean and groomed. Man is ever present, but one feels his presence breathing life to the still nature.

The familiar Jordanian landscape is easily recognisable under the olive greens, petrol blues, rusty bricks and ochres, exquisite dusks (or maybe ams) surround the houses, as palm trees, poplars and exotic vegetation.

The houses, almost omnipresent, are maybe a concession to the architect. They are delicately and precisely detailed or abstractly represented in the all too well-known square shape of the urban architecture of Jordanian towns.

Boulders evoke images from Petra or Wadi Rum, where trees spring from the cracks in the rocks, giving life to a monumental oil-painting.

Next to it, almost miniature in size by comparison, are more houses in the autumn colours of a cold sun setting quietly over peaceful lives of people tired after a day's toiling in a hostile environment.

Steeple mountains walls (nature's creation this time) alternate with urban conglomerations. Streets (cross roads, corners) are viewed from odd aerial angles.

The more abstract canvases complement the architectural representations of the Ammanite houses. At times washed in the raw, blinding, almost white colour of a summer sun, at others basking somnolently in a lazy afternoon light, the images would suggest life still, suspended, atemporal if it weren't for the trees moving gaily by the breeze.

Mustards, purples, and dark oranges are splashed on more aggressive landscape in another group of paintings where cubes or rectangles are superimposed to subtly hint at human settlements.

Mostly rendered from above, the works suggest the detachment of the man giving way to the artist's perception of nature and our surroundings.

Interspersed among the paintings are modern chairs and tables with metallic frames and wooden or marble tops and a wooden settee frame, all the artist's design.

The exhibition runs until Nov. 30.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Fattah, Lisa Fattah and Mohammad Moharrad at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Exhibition entitled "Brilliant stories — American narrative jewellery exhibit" at the American Centre (open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Photography exhibition entitled "Characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of contemporary Swedish art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- Documentary film on endangered species, entitled "Last show on Earth" (parts three and four), at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.
- Exhibition of French children's books at the Marriott Hotel.

FILM

- French film entitled "Le Lion Du Crime" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.



PREMIER MEETS U.S. MILITARY CHIEF: Prime Minister Shaker Al Hasani met in his office Sunday General Joseph P. Hoar, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Central Command who is on a several day visit to Jordan. The two sides reviewed developments on the regional and international levels and ways to safeguard security and stability in the area. They also reviewed Jordanian-American relations particularly in military fields and training. Present at the meeting was U.S. ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison, and the military attaché at the U.S. embassy in Amman, Gen. Hoar was later received by Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

Education conference opens to hot debate

By Stephanie Genkin and Salda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While the Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi expounded his views on the various innovations and achievements of the educational system in Jordan, one authority on education voiced discontent of the ministry's performance accusing it of negligence and stagnant policies.

"The educational policy has not accommodated any significant changes since 1964 which compliments developments in the country," said Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib, Director of the Educational Department at the Yarmouk University, during the opening of a three-day seminar on educational policies in Jordan organised by the United Nations Education, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) along with the Ministry of Education at Amman Hotel.

Criticising the ministry's educational policies, Dr. Al Khatib said that there is a dire need to adopt a more defined set of goals necessary to the development of the educational system in Jordan.

"Jordanian society is going through a transitional phase where it is divided between going back to the Islamic Arab heritage and taking the route of progress and development," he explained.

Dr. Al Khatib attributes the reasons which led to the current crisis in education to the Arab World's crisis in general and its reflection on the educational policy; especially in what concerns extremism in the Arab World, the absence of an intellectual elite and the inability to draw up long-term plans.

However, Mr. Al Hindawi, explained that the reform plan is not an easy operation. "Development in the educational system is dependant upon social, cultural and political factors and goes hand in hand with other institutions' policies for development," he said.

Dr. Al Khatib argued that the various departments of the ministry of education suffer from stagnation caused by centralisation and bureaucratic practices. "Educational programmes have not changed for the past 30 years," Dr. Al Khatib said. "As a result of this inertia, the gap is widening between what the students learn on the one hand, and the plan for national development and market demands, on the other hand," he added.

Dr. Al Khatib asserted that 90% of the ministry's teachers do not have the proper academic qualifications to perform duties, and building facilities are inadequate to accommodate the number of students resulting in haphazard scheduling of classes. He also referred to inefficient testing which places too much importance on the exam itself and not enough places on the actual material. In addition, the working paper denounced the over emphasis on theoretical learning, and the insufficient attention devoted to practical application. Al Hindawi, esteemed that Dr. Al Khatib's criticism as baseless.

Dr. Nabil Nofel UNESCO's official representative at the conference said, "the educational policy is one substantial part of the government's policy and is linked to the country's national security." The conference continues until Wednesday.



SYRIAN ART ON SHOW: Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan, an exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Hamoud Chantout will be opened Monday Nov. 23 at Baladina Art Gallery. The exhibition which will last until Dec. 3 marks the first anniversary of the establishment of Baladina Art Gallery. Mr. Chantout was born in Hama, Syria, in 1956 and studied fine arts in Damascus and Paris.

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OBITUARY

To our dearest friend, Dr. Ani Attar and her family.
We express our deepest sorrow upon the death of her beloved husband,

Dr. Aziz Attar

May his soul rest in peace. We shall never forget him.
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Stasha Abu-Sham with families.

Ensour keen to accommodate private investors

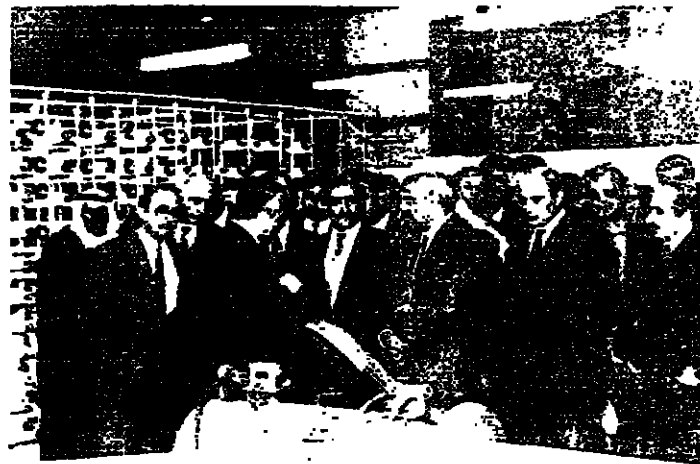
RAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour said here Sunday that the Ministry of Industry was ready to respond favourably to investors who wish to establish business in Jordan.

The Minister was speaking at the opening of four new industrial businesses at the Al Hassan Industrial City.

Despite the chronic economic crisis in Jordan in 1988 and the subsequent recession, Jordan has been able to achieve real progress in industry and other fields thanks to the diligence of its people and the guidance of its leadership, said the minister.

He said that Jordan now enjoys monetary stability and the Central Bank has secured vast reserves of foreign currency deposits while Jordanian industrial products are finding more and more markets abroad.

The Al Hassan Industrial City was established in Irbid when it was clear that the Sahab Industrial City near Amman was not



Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, officials and businessmen at the opening of four factories at Al Hassan Industrial City Sunday (Petra photo)

sufficient to cater to the needs of growing industry in the Kingdom. According to Faysal Suheimat, Director General of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC),

the inauguration ceremony, noted that the industrial city near Ramtha has been provided with all the required facilities and basic utilities, such as telecommunications, roads and electricity. Moreover, JIES has arranged

for customs offices, police and civil defence stations and other services to be available for the benefit of the factories.

Dr. Suheimat said that the JIEC plans to set up other industrial zones in other governorates to meet growing demand for factory buildings and their facilities.

Governor Faysal Abbadi told the meeting that transport facilities have been introduced and workers can commute to the industrial city from Irbid and Ramtha on a daily basis. According to JIEC officials, the four industrial businesses inaugurated Sunday have a total capital exceeding JD 3 million and they produce plastic and paint products.

Dr. Suheimat said that 39 factories already established at the Al Hassan Industrial City started production a year ago producing food stuffs and chemical and plastic products. He said nearly 1,000 workers are currently employed at the factories which also offer practical vocational training to students.

Initial work on Dome of the Rock completed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British construction firm Mivan which has been contracted to refurbish the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem has completed preliminary work and embarked on the implementation of technical jobs required in the process of restoring the holy shrine, according to an announcement by Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

Samples of raw materials to be used in covering the dome have been transferred to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Amman for laboratory tests to ensure that they are of the required specifications, said the minister who is also chairman of a national committee entrusted with supervising the restoration of the holy places in Jerusalem.

The committee has recently completed a series of meetings to discuss topics related to the restoration of the shrine and is now awaiting the RSS test results about what type of gold plated sheets to be used on the dome, said the minister. The committee

also studied the proposed early alarm system to warn against fires to be installed at the site, he added.

Mivan company has been working in close cooperation with a local committee in Jerusalem and has provided it with samples of the materials to be used, the minister noted.

Under a JD 4.8 million deal

concluded last July in Amman, the Mivan company is scheduled to complete the work in 540 days. The work entails covering the dome with goldplated copper sheets supported by lead beams, and to restore the roofs, and install an alarm system against fires.

His Majesty King Hussein in May this year announced that he

was providing \$8.24 million of his own account to help finance the project and announced that Jordan was committed to cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock, noting that the commitment was in line with the Kingdom's policy to support the Palestinians and to safeguard the holy shrines.

Sheikh Khatib had said that Jordan has so far spent more than JD 164 million on the restoration of holy places since 1984. The minister said that the committee has just decided to spend JD 10,000 on boosting the electricity current so that sufficient power can be made available to help speed up work at the site.

In another statement, the minister said Sunday that a national committee charged with supervising the distributions of alms to the poor has spent JD 7500 on buying heaters, blankets and other necessities to be distributed to needy people and orphans at the start of the winter session.

Heavy rains due

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, which witnessed on Saturday the first wave of heavy rains this season, will be swept by another and heavier storm on Monday evening, according to the department of meteorology.

Department officials told the Jordan Times that the presence of a high pressure in central Europe has opened a corridor for cold winds from the Polar North to blow towards the Mediterranean.

The heavy rains are forecast to be accompanied by another drop in temperature, said officials.

Department Director General Ali Abanda told Radio Jordan Sunday that the Kingdom along with other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region were under the effect of an atmospheric depression centred over southern regions of Turkey.

Meanwhile, the department Sunday published the quantities of rain water which fell in Jordan in the past 24 hours. Amman and Irbid governorates received the highest amounts which reached up to 30 millimetres at the University of Jordan.

Puppet show on tour

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over 300 children from Adir village near Karak last week had the chance to attend a puppet show organised by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in cooperation with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

The children were aged 5-12 and the show was presented by 24 Japanese volunteers currently working at various institutions in the Kingdom.

The volunteers, affiliated with the JOCV, presented a show which consists of singing, pantomimes, and puppet musicals, in Arabic. They have so far performed at the Haya Arts Centre, the YMCA summer camp, the Baga refugee camp and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. The volunteers have expressed their wish to stage another performance very soon at other villages and sites.

YMCA Director Majdi Dababneh said the main aim of such performances is to create a deeper understanding between the different cultures of the volunteers and the host country they are serving in.



Children laugh at the puppets

teers, and the host country they are serving in.

YMCA Associate Director Isao Nozaki added that "it is of utmost importance that these performances are held in rural areas where there is no entertainment, thus helping enhancement of children's creativity through fun and amusement."

The JOCV is a major activity of the Japan International Cooperation Agency which is responsible for the Japanese government's international cooperation programme. It has so far dispatched over 11,000 qualified volunteers to 50 countries.

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Weekly Political Pulse

More progress on the peace track than believed

By Waleed Sadi

DR. Abdul Salam Majali, chief Jordanian negotiator at the bilateral Israeli-Jordanian peace talks, summed it all up Wednesday, at the conclusion of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace parley in Washington, when he said: "There has been no tangible progress on any of the Arab-Israeli tracks." Dr. Majali, however, was loud and clear when he added that in spite of the obvious Israeli intransigence, the Arab side will take the Israeli side to task and attend the next round of negotiations.

The lack of progress at the end of the seventh round of peace may have been expected. Both sides of the fence were predicting that due to the change of guard at the White House, there could be a stall in the peace negotiations pending the assumption of power in Washington by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. This assessment is attributed to the fact that the U.S. continues to play a pivotal role in the peace talks on the Arab-Israeli conflicts. With incumbent President George Bush being essentially a lame duck leader, no one can expect the current administration to exercise the same kind of vigour and determination that it had so ably demonstrated in the past. Accordingly, when the Arab and Israeli negotiators resume their discussions on Dec. 7, not much can be anticipated for the same reasons that impeded progress during the past round of talks.

But if the Arab negotiators and their Israeli counterparts are simply marking time till next year, why are they bothering to resume their efforts to break the existing deadlock on practically all fronts? The answer may lie in the fact that there is a general agreement that the momentum of the peace process must be maintained at all costs. Any interruption in the ongoing peace process could serve to reverse the tide for peace in the Middle East. Both Israeli and Arab parties must continue to think in terms of peace even when the going gets tough.

But this is not all. In spite of all protestations to the contrary, considerable progress has been attained at the U.S.-brokered peace process. The fact that both sides are still talking to one

another and refuse to give up even when there is an appearance of a stalemate shows how they are eager to negotiate peace and arrive at a peace treaty in the end. The existing obstacles in the path of the peace talks were expected to occur in any case. No one thought, for even a second, that the Israeli side would not, for example, make an issue out of the kind of peace the Syrians are prepared to offer them just like no one ever thought that the Syrians would, under any circumstances, give up their full claim over the entire Golan Heights.

On the Jordanian-Israeli front, the initial agreement on the agenda that could set the terms of reference for the future relations between the two countries, under conditions of peace, seem to be unravelling after Jordan insisted on better elucidation of the points contained in it. So it seems that the final version of the "agenda" of the Jordanian-Israeli talks is still up for grabs in spite of all the precipitous fury that erupted at the announcement of an accord between them on it. The Palestinian track lies in the middle of the other bilateral peace tracks, marked by occasional euphoria, only to be interrupted by a constant burst of negative assessments about its fate.

The truth of the matter is that some meaningful progress has already been recorded on this front as well even though both sides prefer to deny it. With the Palestinians insisting on establishing a clear and unequivocal link between any interim agreement and the final one, the Israeli side prefers not to make iron clad connections between the two phases at this early stage in the negotiations. Surely this thorny problem can be resolved given the ingenuity of the negotiators from both camps. The main point here is to draw the visionary blue print for the future because without it the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks would be effectively denied a sense of purpose and direction.

True, the momentum of the psychology of peace could be generated by an early accord on an interim solution that is somehow linked with the final and ultimate peace treaty between

the two peoples. That is what the Palestinians need to have sense of where the peace process is heading, as far as they are concerned. It should not be too difficult to articulate appropriate language to reflect these two seemingly opposite views. The Palestinian people have waited all these years in vain. Now it appears that the extra waiting that they are asked to make would not be in vain. This makes the Israeli-Palestinian track the hardest nut to crack.

By comparison, the Syrian Golan Heights would remain formidable, in spite of the gap that still divides the two sides on this matter. It can be projected that Israel may be forthcoming on the extent of their eventual withdrawal from the Heights in due course. As long as the Rabin government keeps insisting on knowing in advance the perimeters of the high peace that Damascus is willing to agree on, in return, a complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory, the Syrian government has a ready and effective rebuttal to this concern by reminding Tel Aviv of the Syrian formula for a predicated on the proposition of complete and full peace in return for full and complete Israeli withdrawal from Syrian territory. It will be a matter of time before Israel can come to think it will be a matter of time before Israel can come to think with this generous Syrian offer of peace. This may indeed call the elevation of the level of negotiations between them.

To sum up, the peace picture is not as bad as it appears. On the contrary, the overall view points in the direction of progress. It would be infinitely more productive to give a once in a while to progress attained instead of painting a gloomy picture about the course of the peace process. After all, both of the fence need to win over their people on the side of peace the best way to accomplish that goal is to accord some occasional credit; when it is due, to what has been painstakingly achieved. The gospel of peace in the Middle East deserves better and effective dissemination by keeping the beacon of hope lit at times.

Stay on, work for better deal

THE PALESTINIAN leadership, which started its meeting in Tunis yesterday, is, as usual, discussing questions of dire consequences to the Palestinian people. Given world and Arab politics, the Palestinians have very little to manoeuvre with in face of tremendous pressures from both the U.S. and Israel. While Israel insists on the Palestinians to limit themselves to the Madrid formula — i.e. five years of Palestinian Interim Self-Government Agreement (PISGA) to be followed by negotiations on a final settlement beginning in the third year of PISGA — the Americans urge them to accept and not to miss the next round on Dec. 7, let alone entertain any protest withdrawing from the talks or even threatening to do so.

But that is the least of the leadership's worry. What has become so alarming is the fact that more and more Palestinians are becoming sceptical of where the current peace talks will lead them. Syria made it clear to the Palestinians that it would not sit idle for five years waiting for a final Palestinian-Israeli settlement before it made its own peace with the Jewish state, leading to the restoration of the Golan Heights. Palestinians are rightly worried that if the terms for a final settlement were not worked out now, in five years they will find themselves isolated and locked in a struggle for land in the West Bank that will be settled by more Israelis. Palestinian opposition to the peace talks is becoming both bloody and widespread. Voices of dissent are being heard within PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's own camp.

As matters stand now, the Palestinians have only two choices: To continue the talks or to withdraw. Judging from their performance until now, we expect they will continue to be engaged in the negotiations, even if for sounding out Israel's true intentions. Pulling out of the talks at this moment will only strengthen the hands of radicals, both Palestinian and Israeli. As long as they make no concessions to the Israelis, that would undermine their national rights, Palestinians have nothing to lose. Meanwhile, the Palestinians need to put more effort on influencing the American administration and people and on creating an Arab front that would put more pressure on Israel to yield to Palestinian rights. Ideally, the Arabs should come to the rescue of their Palestinian kin by drawing a new Arab peace plan that would put all Arab concessions in one basket for a complete trade with the Israelis. A real formula would give Israelis total peace in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I ARABIC daily Sunday commented on the U.N. Security Council debate, due Monday, which will look into the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Now that Iraq has complied with the all U.N. resolutions, it has become clear that the sanctions are meaningless and should end, said the paper. But it is noticed that Israel, on the one hand, and Kuwait, on the other, are investigating Security Council members to maintain the sanctions on the Iraqi people out of hatred and malice and in manifestation of hostility and aggressiveness, said the daily. It is regrettable to see the Kuwaitis siding with the Israeli enemy in adopting such position at a time when everyone can see the Iraqi population continuing to suffer because of the sanctions that are depriving the children and women of their basic needs, the paper continued. Such an attitude on the part of the Kuwaiti government has caused dismay among the Arab masses at a time when Arab countries are trying their best to reconcile and end the differences that have plagued them for so long, added the daily. Fueling malice and hatred through inhuman actions and attitudes can by no means help end differences and can only escalate tension in the Gulf and other parts of the Arab World, the paper said. Continued sanctions and deprivation can only mean further sufferings for the civilian population of Iraq who have paid dearly for the Gulf war, the paper said. The paper urged the council to terminate the sanctions and take a positive stand that can act as a humanitarian gesture, ending the torture of innocent people.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily commented on the abortive outcome of the peace negotiations, noting that failure to achieve progress is a cause for dismay for everyone. It is clear that the abortive seventh round of talks has driven despair into the hearts of those concerned over the attainment of peace in the region and dissipated hope that the ordeal of the oppressed people of Palestine will end soon, the paper said. It is clear to everyone that the Rabin government is not intent on reaching a final settlement with Arab countries, no matter how long the negotiations will take and regardless of whether the Palestinians or other parties despaired and abandoned the talks altogether or not, the paper continued. We believe that the resumption of negotiations, at the coming eighth session before the start of the Clinton administration in Washington, will be futile and should not take place, the paper said. Indeed, starting talks with the Israelis continuing their intransigence, and in the absence of a clearcut policy from Washington, can only bring more frustrations, the paper added. We believe that resuming the negotiations in December, before Mr. Clinton assumes office at the White House can render the negotiations totally paralysed and would complicate matters further, the paper said. Should the talks end in total failure, the daily, the Middle East region will be in grave danger; and this will definitely not be in the interest of the United States or of the other parties concerned.

Arab-Americans call for Mideast understanding

By M. C. Jaspersen

WASHINGTON — A coalition of Arab-American experts on the Middle East is calling for the future Clinton administration to hold "an American-Islamic summit" to examine "the political dynamics" of Islam and democratisation at work in the Middle East.

"The United States must recognise that the Arab World is not a monolith, but is rather made up of complex, diverse societies struggling to create democratic institutions and civil societies," Arab American Institute President James Zogby said on November 20.

In recommending an agenda for U.S.-Arab relations during a policy forum at the National Press Club, Mr. Zogby suggested that the United States must ensure that "key Middle East and foreign policy posts go to foreign policy professionals who can begin their tenures with respect from all sides" rather than those who are perceived to be biased. Mr. Zogby said that Mr. Clinton should also "appoint a special envoy with the authority and credibility to act on the Baker timetable accepted by all parties to the talks." Further, he noted, the president-elect ought to "utilise the Arab American community as a bridge to the Arab World."

George Salem, president of the National Association of Arab Americans, pointed out that what has worked thus far in the Middle East peace process has been the Bush administration's "twin tests of fairness and security," which he said were "based on a firm resolve to provide for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people ... and the

security and recognition for all states in the region, including Israel."

The new administration, he

added, must move quickly to "demonstrate, from the earliest days of its tenure, a genuine commitment" to the same policy.

Mr. Salem also called on Mr. Clinton to assure that his administration becomes "directly and actively engaged in the peace process."

Georgetown University Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine, Hisham Sharabi, also suggested that the way to keep the process

on track is to continue the Bush administration's policies.

He said the U.S. stance as mediator, "ready ... to facilitate

"could prevent stalemate and give new momentum to the peace process," if "the hopes and fears of both sides of the conflict" are

Anthony said.

In each case, he noted, U.S. forces were "upholding a victim country's national sovereignty,

not there now. That is a multi-faceted system of cooperation between States and the ... threatened countries of the region."

He stressed that "in this pursuit is not an end in itself, but a means to an end, that 'precipitous' or 'withdrawals' of U.S. must be avoided; that 'on understandings or a must be avoided; that 'stating and repeatedly unambiguous commitment defense of these (GCC) tries' is essential.

Securing the peace, he said, means States must "draw not in the sand, but in the water, as Mr. Anthony said. States should reaffirm its commitment to consolidating cooperation in areas of defense, possibly including a deepening cooperation in intelligence sharing, joint operations and multi-faceted operations.

Jean AbiNader, president of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, advised that the U.S. administration would be defining U.S. commercial "broadly," as they "a complex than export and promoting of of fair trade."

U.S. interests, AbiNader, include both energy sources and related sectors, as America produces 25 per cent of its oil needs from Arab states — United States Energy Agency.



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Iraq's medical supplies drop off

By Barbara Nimri Aziz

BAGHDAD — "We haven't had emergency medical supplies or food from the U.N. or other NGOs since June," complained the weary-looking director of Baghdad's chief pediatric hospital.

"The UNICEF office will not reply to my calls; the visiting American delegation (Medicine for Peace) said nothing about why they had not brought medical supplies with them." Save the Children Fund, WHO, Catholic Relief Services, Medicines Sans Frontiers and most other aid agencies have left Iraq and stopped supplying hospitals and clinics here with badly needed basic medicines.

"It must be political," adds Director Qasim Ismael without offering to elaborate. Indeed there have been differences between the Iraqi government and the U.N., under whose umbrella most foreign relief in Iraq is facilitated. The U.N. wanted more autonomy; it also insists on supplying the northern Kurdish regions within its Iraq budget. Other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) sending aid favour the Kurds as well, says Baghdad; this, it maintains, is unjustified; moreover, Iraq's Ministry of Health insists that it must centralise and supervise all foreign aid.

Speaking with Iraqi doctors and the public it is apparent that the current medical situation in Iraq is critical, far worse today

than after the bombing crippled hospitals across the nation in the winter of 1991. But the problem is perhaps less over NGOs' policies than with the general U.N. embargo. Medicine and food, especially infant food, was to be excluded from the U.N. imposed embargo. Yet, only emergency supplies found their way in. This came through the numerous organisations which responded with shipments of relief. Whatever supplies found their way into Iraq's besieged population fell far below even normal needs, officials point out. British aid workers leaving Iraq in June noted that combined gifts of medical and infant food from all outside humanitarian sources met barely 10 per cent of the nation's needs.

UNICEF's office in Baghdad agrees it was not much higher. Iraqi government officials say relief aid met barely 5 per cent of their needs. Thus health officials charged with servicing the entire population of 18 million feel the government might forego even this assistance in its effort to have the embargo lifted. If it can generate an income, Iraq can buy medicines and other needs itself. In the short term, it may seem inhuman and ungrateful to lose the 5 to 10 per cent emergency aid from departing foreign relief agencies. But when the entire population is faced with a medical crisis, say Iraqi officials, a new strategy is needed. "We will be able to serve our entire population which is suffering from lack of medicines and milk only if we ourselves can buy the drugs and food we need," says Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Shawki Marcus. Iraq, he says, has no intention of becoming self-sufficient in medicine; "it would be impossible and impractical. We intend to continue buying from abroad as before, but we can only do this through unfreezing our foreign assets and resuming trade." The Health Ministry's agenda is to demand an end to the embargo so Iraq can look after itself.

Iraq has in the last two decades built a highly modern medical structure offering high quality free medical care to virtually everyone across the country. Its doctors are among the best trained in the world. "In medical manpower Iraq is self-sufficient," a visiting medical expert says. But in drugs and basic medical equipment Iraq was tightly dependent on outside supplies.

Drugs were to be exempt from the U.N. imposed economic embargo. But since 1990, foreign companies have not responded to orders from Baghdad, having been coerced or otherwise pressed to ignore the Ministry of Health's requests. Foreign suppliers refused to offer Iraq credit by which to make its drug purchases. An angry Iraqi official points out that "Even \$10 million worth of medicines we pre-paid several suppliers before the embargo was not filled. They sent us \$7 million (out of \$17 million) of the order and kept the rest."

A year ago, when the current medical crisis was mounting, Iraq signed contracts with five different nations, applying its foreign assets deposited in those countries to secure credit against which to purchase medicines from their respective companies. To date, three of the agreements have been partly filled. England has sent 32 per cent of the agreed \$70 million in drugs and food, and Spain \$1 million; Italy has only sent a quarter of what was paid for; the other two, Canada and Sweden, have yet to deliver any of what was agreed upon. During the past 26 months, Iraq's population has survived largely on medicines in stock with the Ministry of Health. Relief medicines are directed to emergency needs, such as vaccines, and those are mainly for children. Iraq's general supplies are now almost exhausted; be-

cause most medicines are dated, many became useless.

Dr. Ala'a El Dein points out that his department annually ordered, 1,200 different drugs as well as 400 items of medical equipment from abroad, all for the civilian population. They were for standard chronic diseases: cancers, heart and renal diseases, anaesthesia, insulin as well as pain killers, antibiotics and tablets for asthma, flu and other common ailments.

One of these is Desmopressin (an anti-diabetic drug also sold under the name Minurin), manufactured by Ferring AB in Sweden. Today Desmopressin is impossible to find anywhere in Iraq.

This intra-nasal solution was imported by Iraq (10,000 vials a year) for its 281 citizens with this disease.

port Ministry of Health and pharmacists, "not a be found in the whole of any cost." And stocks smothered in Jordan, been exhausted by earlier from Iraq.

The story is the same thousands of other hundreds of thousands of chronically ill Iraqis like Sadeer. The situation is disturbing when one sees Sadeer's medical history, he contracted cranial bone when he was five, how his sold their home to send a radiotherapy abroad, of brain tissue at the Sadeer's skull in turn c other medical problems eyes and other vital organs quiring a series of operations.

When Sadeer began to easily administered Desmopressin, eight years ago, government paying all his costs, the family was of their financial burden Sadeer began a near school life. Today he is weight and his strength is ing; he has not been able since June; he has had no school.

No relief organisation gin to attend to this medical threat, admits a relief worker. "We were dealing with emergency Iraq."

After the embargo began in August 1990, Sadeer's mother vate pharmacists at a cost of \$100 a month. Then Dr. Isam was able to restore the child's supply, free of cost as before, through the Ministry of Health. "Now," re-

Features

Palestinians likely to attend talks

(Continued from page 1)

I think that the Palestinians ... will find an Israeli government who will deal seriously with all the questions," Mr. Shalal said.

On Saturday, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Israel must withdraw completely from the Golan Heights before there can be peace in the Middle East.

AP reported that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he won't discuss the disputed land until he is convinced Syria wants peace. Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin remarks appeared in separate interviews with Time magazine.

AP quoted Mr. Assad as saying: "Nobody in Syria could give up one inch of land in the Golan." "Every Syrian believes deep in his heart that whoever yields a part of his land is a traitor and the fate of traitors is well known."

Mr. Rabin did not rule out a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

In a related development, Mr. Peres said French President Francois Mitterrand, due in the region this week, remained a friend to Israel despite urging the Jewish state to negotiate with the PLO.

"He's entitled to his views, this doesn't change the fact that he remains a very good and important friend of the state of Israel," Reuter quoted Mr. Peres as saying.

AI welcomes Royal pardon, calls for right of appeal

Amnesty International press release

AMNESTY International has welcomed a general amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussein on Nov. 12, 1992 resulting in the release of hundreds of prisoners, including political prisoners and detainees. The Human Rights Organisation has also welcomed the King's announcement on Nov. 5 of his commitment to increase respect for human rights — but has renewed its call for the right of appeal to be introduced before the State Security Court.

Among those known by Amnesty International to have been released following the amnesty announcement are Laith Shbeilat and Yaqoub Qarrash, two members of Parliament, and

publicly and distributing leaflets against peace negotiations with Israel: they were tried by the State Security Court on charges including membership of an illegal, violent organisation. At the trial, the State Security Court concluded that neither the LPJ, nor those of its members on trial, had used or advocated violence in pursuit of their objective — the establishment of an Islamic state headed by a Caliph. However, it ruled that the LPJ was an illegal organisation and on those grounds convicted the defendants. They were serving sentences of one and a half years' imprisonment. Three others tried with them were sentenced to one year's imprisonment and were

released earlier in 1992 after the expiry of their sentences.

Other political prisoners released under the amnesty include prisoners convicted of violent offences in previous years by the Martial Law Court, abolished in April 1992, and the State Security Court. They included members of the Jaysh Mohammad group tried in 1991.

Those released also included a number of political detainees who were under interrogation or facing trial before the State Security Court, among them nine suspected members of Hamas, an Islamic Palestinian group, who were arrested in 1991 and 1992. Another of those released, Ibrahim Sirbil, had been detained

since August on suspicion of belonging to another Islamic group while two others, Durgham Halasa and his brother, both members of the Party of Popular Unity, had been detained for over one month apparently on suspicion of possessing weapons.

In his speech on Nov. 5, King Hussein Bin Talal appealed for Jordanians to "open wide the gates of freedom, democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights," so as to make Jordan a model for the Arab World. Amnesty International welcomes this call and also the King's emphasis on the importance of supporting and protecting institutions such as the judiciary, which he made clear to Prime Minister

Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Nov. 12.

However, Amnesty International considers that an important measure to strengthen and enhance the credibility of the judiciary would be the introduction of the right of appeal in all courts in Jordan. Amnesty International urges that the necessary legislative initiatives for this should be taken during the next parliamentary session beginning on Dec. 1. The right of appeal is an essential safeguard for fair trial — its introduction in all courts would also bring Jordan into line with the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it is already a state party.

GATT deal would brighten long-term growth outlook

By Alan Wheatley
Reuter

PARIS — Like a powerful but slow-working drug, a deal to liberalise trade would reinvigorate the world economy over time and, by boosting confidence in the short run, could even ease the recession gripping many countries.

He said a deal could boost trade by \$150 billion a year.

That figure is in the range accepted by most economists, who also agree that growing trade has been fundamental to the boom in living standards since World War II.

"A successful conclusion to the round would help lift the world economy out of recession by providing predictable and stable trading rules," the securities house Barclays de Zoete Wedd said in a report.

Economists at Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) said the gains could be substantial. "Estimates suggest that world trade may increase by up to three per cent a year mainly through the impact of trade in services and agriculture," they said.

There would be losers, too. A study by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development projects that the Maghreb, sub-Saharan Africa and the Mediterranean countries would see their incomes shrink, by 0.2 per cent to 0.6 per cent over a decade, as a result of lower farm prices.

But developing countries as a whole would reap net gains of about \$91 billion after a decade thanks to the easier access to industrial markets that a GATT deal would give them, the OECD report, by the think tank's development centre, says.

Success in the Uruguay round of trade talks organised by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) looked tantalisingly within grasp after the U.S. and the European Community settled a long-running trade dispute on Friday.

"I believe it is a remarkable opportunity to help lift the world out of the recession. It is clearly the single most important event that the industrial world needed," Britain's Prime Minister John Major said.

It is no coincidence that economic weakness in the past two years has been accompanied by a slowdown in trade. Volumes grew by just 1.5 per cent in 1991, the slowest pace since 1985.

Completing the Uruguay round should help reverse this trend, especially as its scope is so ambitious.

For the first time negotiators are aiming to write free-trade rules for agriculture, textiles, services, intellectual property rights and trade-related investment.

Services trade alone was worth \$680 billion in 1989, accounting for 19 per cent of world trade. By contrast, the total value of trade covered by the last multilateral talks, the 1973-1979 Tokyo round, was just \$155 billion.

CSFB said the gainers of a

GATT deal, if the 108 contracting parties can agree, would be concentrated in the industrial world, since very few developing countries, with the exception of Korea, are major service exporters or can match the rich world in terms of agricultural efficiency.

Ironically, France, whose Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy rejected the farm pact on Saturday, would be a major beneficiary of a GATT pact as it is the second biggest provider of services.

Other winners would include efficient farm exporters, such as the United States, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

Service sectors that could boom would include telecommunications, financial services, construction and transport, while consumers in Europe should benefit over time from cheaper food, the CSFB economists said.

But some policy-makers dislike trying to quantify long-term benefits. Much more important, they say, is the short-term impact on confidence, that elusive key to economic success that is so conspicuously lacking right now.

"A fundamental element in restoring confidence and improving growth prospects would be a successful and quick conclusion of the Uruguay round," the OECD's economic policy committee said this month. "How can businesses plan their operations and invest if they do not know what the rules of the game are to be?"

Leading pessimistic

(Continued from page 1)

not there now, the head of the U.N. special mission in charge of scrap-

ing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and Hans Blix, director of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, responsible for destroying Iraq's nuclear potential.

He stressed that this pursuit is a long-term task. Under Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq is obliged, among other things, to declare, destroy and dismantle its weapons of mass destruction.

Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah left for the U.N. on Saturday to argue against any relaxation of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

The emirate says about 800 Kuwaitis are still held in Iraq but Baghdad says it does not hold any Kuwaitis.

which are due to begin in Washington on Dec. 7.

Chief Palestinian delegate Haider Abdul Stafi, spokesman for the PLO, said the team members Saeb Erekat and Azmi Ashoaybi had reported overnight on the results of the seventh round of talks in Washington to a meeting chaired by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Dr. Ashrawi left Tunis for the West Bank on Sunday but the talks were still taking place.

The meeting is being boycotted by two radical PLO factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Damascus-based wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Majali

(Continued from page 1)

relatively upbeat comparison, the negotiations continue sharply with statements by officials at the close of Washington talks saying the mission had accomplished its task.

Mr. Ashrawi said clearly we did not make progress but it was very important because we exchanged information and ideas about the various items that we are discussing on the agenda," he told reporters.

He said the Israelis will be expected to understand that the U.N. is not a party to the work.

Tunis, PLO officials said administration leaders were debating a possible delay in the next round of peace talks with Israel.

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Qadhafi thinks crisis over

(Continued from page 1)

oil exports, Colonel Qadhafi could then say to his people: "I was going to give you money but now I can't do it."

Libya has already complied with the U.N. resolution providing Britain with information on its aid to the Irish

Republican Army fighting British rule in northern Ireland.

It said it is also ready to let U.N. teams visit Libya to look for any alleged training camps for terrorists.

Libya said it agrees to help France's investigation of the UTA explosion over Niger.

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Yemenis ignore strike

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Saleh, appearing on Sanaa Television, urged people to renounce political disputes and resort to democracy and dialogue to solve their differences.

"The important thing is that the people should know how to administer the art of solving differences and crisis in a civilised manner," he said.

But Omar Al Jawi, secretary-general of the opposition Yemeni Unionist Gathering, said the statement had been seen as "a threat to the merchants to keep their shops open" and that security men pulled down street slogans calling for the strike.

"Some government employees refused to work but their superiors who are members in the ruling party forced them to work," he told Reuters.

He said more than 40 opposition parties, unions and societies would meet on Monday to discuss future steps.

Opposition parties say that under the May 1990 unification accord between North Yemen and formerly Marxist South Yemen, general elections should be held before Nov. 22 this year and the country's ruling institutions should be dissolved.

"All constitutional bodies are illegitimate as of today and until the elections are held in April 27," Mr. Jawi said.

Abdul Rahman Al Jefri, leader of the influential pro-Saudi League of the Sons of Yemen, told Reuters on Saturday that the government had banned publication of a joint supplement by the opposition's weekly newspapers on the reasons for the strike.

He said the government threatened legal action because the papers are only allowed to publish supplements separately.

Mr. Jefri said the coalition had to abide by the order after printing 25,000 copies.

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Economy

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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 16-November 20, 1992)

AMMAN — The dollar broke its week-long technical retreat Monday and rallied to 1.5928 marks, surprising many. Observers maintained that the mark was again a matter of European currencies weakness. The mark came under pressure after the release of a major economic report by the five major economic institutes in Germany, dubbed as the "Five Wise Men." The report had forecasted a flat German economic growth for 1993. British politics and declining Swiss money market interest rates added further pressure to the pound and the Swiss franc, respectively. In contrast, the dollar was buoyed by the release of some positive economic data.

The U.S. unit edged back slightly Tuesday, as traders cautiously resumed taking profit on the dollar. The general perception was that the previous week's correction phase was in its final stages, as most of the accumulated long positions have already been liquidated.

Heavy capital outflows from Sweden lately and failure of the Riksbank, Sweden's central bank, to defend its currency, fuelled speculation of a possible devaluation. Said speculation came to a head Wednesday, bringing the Scandinavian currencies in particular and European currencies in general, under added pressure. This boosted the mark's cross rates, thus reflecting adversely on the dollar.

The Swiss franc declined, nevertheless, despite being a non-ERM currency, on fears that a referendum on joining the European Economic Area will be defeated on Dec. 4th. As the mark rallied sharply against European currencies Thursday, the dollar dipped to 1.5715 marks, its lowest of the week. The rush into marks followed Sweden's announcement that it was abandoning its efforts to peg the krona to the ECU, a move which practically amounted to an official devaluation. Sweden's decision, in fact, was preceded by a similar one by Finland last September, which had prompted Sweden to hike the inter-bank interest rate temporarily to 75 per cent to squash devaluation fears at that time. Although not fully-pledged members of the EC, Sweden and Finland, together with other Scandinavian countries, had pegged their currencies to the ECU in 1991 as a special relationship.

The dollar posted a sharp rebound at the end of the week, however, breaching resistance at 1.6050 marks due to safe haven demand. It closed at its highest levels of the week.

Observers maintained that in the aftermath of the Swedish devaluation, expectations became unanimous that an ERM realignment was inevitable, and was likely to materialize over the weekend. The timing remained, however, a subject for speculation. Some observers thought that a more likely date was Dec. 10th, 1992, when the Bundesbank sets its monetary growth target. Analysts agreed, though, that the EC could not afford to delay the decision for more than three months, under any circumstances.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	13/11/92	20/11/92	Percent Change
sterling Pound	1.5505	1.5336	-2.42%
Deutsche Mark	1.5707	1.6055	-2.17%
Swiss Franc	1.4182	1.4465	-1.96%
French Franc	5.3025	5.4225	-2.21%
Japanese Yen	124.05	124.38	-0.27%

Currency	13/11/92	20/11/92	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.93	3.02	4.06
sterling Pound	7.19	6.38	7.00	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.93	7.94	8.68	7.62
Swiss Franc	6.37	6.12	6.12	5.93
French Franc	9.37	8.56	9.76	8.75
Japanese Yen	5.67	5.56	5.81	3.62

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.689	.691
sterling Pound	1.0403	1.0455
Deutsche Mark	.4285	.4306
Swiss Franc	.4756	.4780
French Franc	.1270	.1276
Japanese Yen	.5535	.5563
Swedish Gulder	.3811	.3830
Dutch Krona	.1026	.1033
Italian Lira	.0497	.0493
Belgian Franc	.02082	.02092

Bundesbank may cut short-term rates

Peseta, escudo devalued to ease EC currency strains

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) agreed to devalue the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo by six per cent Sunday to try to halt the battering of its exchange rate mechanism (ERM) by the currency markets.

The decision was announced in the early hours after more than 10 hours of talks among top monetary officials from the 12 EC states, called to Brussels for an emergency meeting after a fresh wave of speculative selling on the foreign exchanges.

It is the second devaluation in just over two months for the peseta. It went down five per cent on Sept. 17, the day after black Wednesday when the pound sterling and the Italian lira were forced out of the ERM currency grid.

The EC monetary committee, which groups deputy central bank governors and treasury directors, took no action on the Irish punt or the Danish crown, both of which had also come under pressure Friday.

And it had nothing to say on Germany's interest rates, blamed by many for the tensions within the system. Asked as he left the meeting whether the German central bank planned to cut rates, Bundesbank Vice-President Hans Tietmeyer told reporters:

"You can be sure that Germany will do what it feels is appropriate."

The committee statement said that Spain would lift immediately exchange controls imposed in the aftermath of the September crisis.

In Madrid, the economy minister said in a statement that the aim of the realignment had been to make further changes unnecessary when the lira returns to the ERM after dropping to a lower level in its free float.

"I think the new exchange rate will give stability to the peseta and stimulate Spanish exports. In this way permit improvements in economic activity and employment," Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga said.

Jose Bras, state secretary at the Portuguese treasury, said he expected pressures in the ERM to die down after the realignment and saw no need for any further changes.

"The pressures that existed in the system I think were dealt with by this movement," he told reporters.

He added that Portugal, which carries out a large proportion of its trade with Spain, had decided the escudo should follow the peseta downward after retaining its value during September's realignment.

Asked why the meeting had taken so long, he said: "Because it is a very important matter. It has to do with currency relations and with monetary affairs of many, many currencies and many millions of people."

An Irish official told reporters that there had been no pressure for a devaluation of the punt at the meeting despite the selling Friday which prompted central bank intervention.

The country has a general election next Wednesday and with the ruling Fianna Fail Party

trumpeting its strong punt policy in the campaign, a devaluation so close to the vote would have been politically unacceptable.

There were no changes in any other exchange rates, including the Danish crown which had been affected by the turmoil among Nordic currencies that caused Sweden to break its link between the crown and the ERM Thursday.

But the Danish government said there was no reason to devalue the currency, which together with the French franc, the Dutch guilder and the Belgian and Luxembourg francs forms part of a "mark bloc" bound tightly to the German unit.

The monetary committee stressed the importance of the convergence programmes which all EC states are following in preparation for economic and monetary union under the EC's Maastricht treaty.

It gave no indication of any doubt about the Maastricht process and its goal of a single currency by the end of the century, despite the recent currency turmoil and the problems which Denmark and Britain have had in ratifying the treaty.

It said Spain and Portugal would implement strictly all measures to achieve their convergence programmes, which aim to bring economic performance into line with that of the strongest EC economies.

And there was no suggestion that the tough economic convergence criteria should be relaxed in the face of the dramatic slow-

down in EC economies that has prompted talk of a Community-wide growth plan.

"Member states whose currencies are in the exchange rate mechanism will implement their economic and monetary policies in such a way as to improve their convergence on price stability and ensure the stability of their currencies within the parity grid," the statement said.

Apart from the pound and the lira, only the Greek drachma is not in the ERM.

The Bundesbank may respond to the devaluation of the Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo with a slight cut in short-term interest rates but economists said Sunday they did not expect it to lower official rates.

"I can imagine the Bundesbank will slightly reduce its short-term rates as a gesture of goodwill," said Michael Korn, economist at Swiss Bank Corp. "But it's hard to see a cut in official rates coming any sooner as a result of this."

Economists said the Bundesbank could lower the rate of its weekly securities repurchase tender Wednesday to about 8.5 per cent from 8.6 per cent from 8.75 per cent.

It will keep its Lombard rate unchanged at 9.5 per cent and its discount rate at 8.25 per cent. Since the last ERM realignment in September, the Bundesbank has held its official rates steady despite several cuts in short-term rates.

"The peseta and escudo have such a small weighting that even if the Bundesbank decides a change in policies would be appropriate, any change would be very, very small," said Richard Reid, economist at UBS Phillips Drew in Frankfurt.

"All the Bundesbank's comments in recent weeks have made it clear that they must be very careful (with rate moves) because of domestic pressures," he added.

Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger said Friday that room to manoeuvre on rates was limited and the central bank would stick to the principle of a stability-oriented policy.

Economists said the peseta and escudo together made up only six per cent of the EC's trade-weighted basket of currencies.

"We're talking about secondary currencies," Mr. Korn said. "Neither is as important as the Italian lira or British pound."

A similar weekend realignment in September, in which the lira was devalued by seven per cent, had been accompanied by a statement from the EC that the Bundesbank would lower its interest rates.

That announcement was strongly criticised because it gave the appearance that the Bundesbank, famous for its independence, had succumbed to political pressure to cut interest rates.

Economists said the rate cut announcement in September had been doubly embarrassing for the Bundesbank since it was announced by politicians in Brussels.

"That was a huge slap in the face for the Bundesbank," Mr. Korn said. "I can see modest easing in repo rates this time, but I can't see the Bundesbank responding with an official rate cut. The Bundesbank does not want to be seen again as blackmailed."

Many analysts had until recently expected the Bundesbank to cut official rates at its final 1992 meeting on Dec. 10.

Because inflation and money supply growth remain uncomfortably high, most forecasts for a cut in official rates have since been revised to early 1993.

"There will be no pressure on the Bundesbank to respond," said Klaus Elsner, senior currency trader at Deutsche Bank.

Analysts said the Irish pound could come under heavy selling pressure on Monday. The Italian lira and Danish crown were also potential targets for currency speculators, analysts said.

In Bonn, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel welcomed the ERM realignment.

"That the Spanish and Portuguese governments have taken the opportunity of adjusting their exchange rates to intensify their efforts to reach monetary goals is to be welcomed," Mr. Waigel said in a statement issued Sunday.

"Monetary stability remains for the (German) government the indisputable pre-condition for the further monetary and political integration in Europe," he pointed out.

Disney criticises California business climate

ANAHEIM (R) — Walt Disney Co. Chairman Michael Eisner has sharply criticised the business climate in California and said the state should adopt the attitude of countries like France and Japan that foster development.

Mr. Eisner discussed the hurdles that Disney faces in trying to build a second Theme Park in Anaheim, home of the original Disneyland.

Disney plans to build an Ocean-oriented Theme Park in Japan, adjacent to Tokyo Disneyland, Mr. Eisner said. He noted Disney originally sought to build such a park in the southern California port city of Long Beach but hit regulatory and environmental hurdles.

Disney's expansion efforts in

California now focus on a proposed \$3 billion park called Westcot, to be built next to Disneyland.

But after the recent release of an environmental impact study, it said the park might not be economically feasible due to steep environmental and infrastructure costs.

"We are trying to succeed despite a California business climate that has gone from sunny to chilly," Mr. Eisner said in a speech to the World Affairs Council of Orange County.

"The state does not have a coherent policy designed to attract and retain successful, economy-stimulating companies and industries. France and Japan, two countries Disney knows well,

have industrial policies which encourage and promote certain industries," he added.

France is home to Euro Disneyland, operated and developed by Walt Disney Co. The park is owned by Euro Disney SCA, which is 49 per cent owned by Disney.

Euro Disney, which operates a Theme Park near Paris, last week reported a loss in its last financial year and said it did not expect to be profitable in the current year.

Japan is home to Tokyo Disneyland, which is licensed by Disney and owned and operated by the Oriental Land Co.

Mr. Eisner said the proposed Californian park would have transformed "an unattractive, under-utilised industrial shoreline into an enchanting seaside resort."

... but from the reaction we received from some quarters, you might have imagined we were proposing a toxic dump in the middle of Big Sur," he said, referring to a scenic stretch of the California coast.

Disney is committed to investing in projects that "promise a reasonable profit in the future,"

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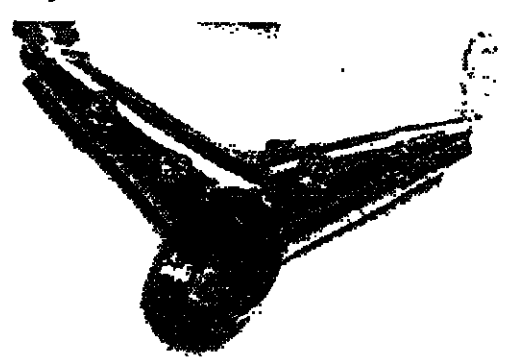
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Tajiks probe reports of refugee camp massacre

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — Tajikistan is investigating reports of a massacre at a refugee camp near the Central Asian republic's border with Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Tajik State Security Committee said Sunday.

The spokesman, Sayit Omar Rajabov, said parliament had ordered an investigation but he could not confirm when or if an attack on refugees had taken place.

Mr. Rajabov said he had no information on casualties.

"We have heard of the reported massacre but we have no official confirmation. Our office has started the investigation," he told Reuters by telephone from the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

A United Nations official in the region said thousands of refugees were stranded near the Tajik border with Afghanistan after fleeing the Shartuz district, where he said the massacre was alleged to have taken place on Nov. 12.

The independent Russian News Agency (NEGA), said Saturday that possibly as many as 800 people had been killed or wounded in an attack by unidentified well-armed groups near the border with Afghanistan. It did not say when the attack took place.

Geldolph Evers, regional representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said he interviewed two refugees from the area this week in the Uzbek town of Termez, just across the border.

The refugees spoke of at least 50 people killed, including chil-

dren and pregnant women, in an attack by what they described as "armed bandits."

Mr. Evers, based in the Uzbek capital Tashkent, said the refugees could not identify the attackers, who were equipped with a tank and heavy machineguns.

They said they had walked for two days from Shartuz, a town of about 50,000 people. Thousands more fled by swimming across the Amu Darya River and got stranded near the border with Afghanistan, they told the UNHCR.

The NEGA agency said the groups attacked self-defence units in the Shartuz district.

"These formations literally swept aside the small, poorly armed posts and dealt harshly with refugees. According to some estimates, 800 people were killed or wounded," it said.

Russian border guard commanders in the area were not immediately available for comment on the reports.

Tajikistan, an impoverished state, is riddled with regional, clan and ethnic rivalries.

Most of the refugees in Shartuz came from the Kurgan-Tyube region, scene of some of the fiercest fighting in recent months between supporters and opponents of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

The Tajik parliament, meeting for the past week in the northern city of Khojand, decided Saturday to call for talks between leaders of rival armed groups which have been fighting a virtual



Abkhazian volunteers converse with each other as between Abkhazian separatists and Georgian forces they rest on the first day of a 10-day ceasefire (AFP photo).

civil war since September.

Parliament has taken a step towards ending the conflict by accepting the resignation of ex-President Nabiyev, a rallying figure for former Communists opposed to the democratic and Muslim dominated coalition that has been ruling since May.

But former Communists in the legislature asserted their will by electing as parliament Chairman Imamat Rakhmanov, from the southern town of Kalyab, the stronghold of the Communist rebellion.

Mr. Rakhmanov's election will not go down well with the Muslim activists in the loose coalition government which was forced to resign in mid-November after a series of setbacks against pro-Communist rebels.

The new government, likely to be dominated by pro-Communist representatives from the south, will find it increasingly hard to rule the fragmented republic, especially the capital Dushanbe where anti-Communist feelings run high.

Colonel Grigory Domin, head of a Russian tank battalion in Dushanbe, told Tajik journalists that more than 3,000 gunmen loyal to Muslim leaders were now guarding the capital.

many territorial and ethnic conflicts in the volatile Transcaucasus and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

TASS quoted Armenian sources as saying that after two days of fierce fighting around Syrkavent and Kichan, Armenian "self-defence forces" made Azeri troops pull back to their initial positions.

"The self-defence forces had eight killed and 10 wounded, while 30 Azeri soldiers were killed," the report said.

Azeri troops launched an offensive from Azerbaijan's southern Fizuli district in the direction of Armenian border villages Saturday night, but the attack was repelled, it said.

TASS said fighting had abated in another Transcaucasian trouble spot, Georgia's breakaway western region of Abkhazia.

It quoted the Georgian military command in the region as saying that a temporary ceasefire accord was being observed around the Gumista River area to allow Russian troops to withdraw from the regional capital Sukhumi.

But in the Abkhazian region of Ochamchira, one Georgian soldier was killed and seven wounded in a clash with separatists.

Hundreds have been killed in fighting between Georgian government and Abkhazian forces since August when the local parliament voted for greater autonomy.

Cambodia poll may proceed without Khmer Rouge

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council will consider this week how to hold elections in Cambodia without the Khmer Rouge and the estimated 15 per cent of the population controlled by the radical guerrilla group.

While official statements hold out an olive branch to the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge), new council strategies point to isolating the guerrillas in the hope that they will not disrupt elections planned for May.

A Security Council resolution could open the way for economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of up to a million people when they were in power in the mid-1970s, have refused to demobilise and disarm their men or give U.N. troops access to areas they control.

They have also been blamed for firing on U.N. helicopters.

France, Britain, Russia, China and the United States have been working on a resolution that states elections will go ahead as planned and asks the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to organise them once voter registration closes on Jan. 31.

The draft is currently under review by the five governments, permanent members of the Security Council, and may be revised further after Peking, a key player in the peace process, contemplates its implications.

It is expected to be presented to the full Council later this week.

Gone in the latest draft are earlier provisions giving the Khmer Rouge until the last moment to join the elections.

"We are not saying they cannot join after Jan. 31 but by implication that is what we are doing," said one drafter.

The document, according to envoys, also discards any notion of by-elections to accommodate the Khmer Rouge after the rest of the country has voted for delegates to a constituent assembly.

But it calls for a separate presidential election, presumably to legitimise the status of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the only leader with a nationwide following.

The threat of an economic embargo against the Khmer Rouge focuses on oil imports and timber exports in the hope that China, opposed to any sanctions on principle, would agree to limited punishment, diplomats said.

Western nations argue that oil is being used to fuel the Khmer Rouge's military machine, prohibited under the Paris peace pact of October 1991.

The West says Cambodia's Supreme National Council on Sept. 23 forbade timber exports to try to preserve natural resources.

To this end Secretary-General Boutros Ghali will be asked to set up border checkpoints. But such an operation requires the cooperation of Thailand, where businessmen and the military do a thriving business with the Khmer Rouge and are unlikely to curtail it.

Nevertheless, a recent report by Dr. Ghali reflects disappointment that the United Nations' most comprehensive peace plan ever will only be partially fulfilled. Provisions for a phased withdrawal of 15,000 U.N. troops have been delayed until after the elections.

Column

Ireland's first condom shop

DUBLIN (AP) — In condom shop opened taking advantage of isolation which lifted on sales. Condom Powlin's funky Temple Bar done about 12 Irish per hour, said owner Joe. "We're trying to make idea is keep it clean said Mrs. Power, mother of two. She opened the shop, with 200 varieties of condom. "I've wanted to time ago, so as so legislation was changed into it," Mrs. Power amendment to the Family Act earlier this year condoms to be sold in pharmacies. Previously, they available from chemists in pharmacies. Reproductive must be at least old, if they're single married.

Madonna's boob banned in Ireland

DUBLIN (AP) — A book "Sex" has been Ireland a month after sale. Several hundred the pop star's snappy picture book were snapped it became available in capital. But the censor chaired by Irish Judge Diarmuid said Friday that should not be sold. Pre- cision, the British National Security Council, and may be revised further after Peking, a key player in the peace process, contemplates its implications.

Wyman divorce hearing adjourned

LONDON (AP) — A hearing on the disputed settlement between Stones guitarist Bill Wyman and his ex-wife Mandy was adjourned Friday. Mr. Wyman's wife of less than a year were divorced in May. He failed to agree terms of their settlement. Miss Smith, 22, and Mr. Wyman, 36, were in court for the private hearing, which was scheduled for Monday. The couple was just 13. They June 1989.

Prostitutes plan to curb crawlers

AMSTERDAM (R) — Prostitutes and pimping public in the Dutch town ningen to protest at on to curb street prostitution clients' car registration. "They say their stamp," a council said. About 50 brothel and prostitutes handed to the mayor, although their business involve street prostitution been hit by the plan by the authorities last year. The plan is to curb prostitution by finding addresses of registration numbers and to them. But prostitutes were now afraid to go near Groningen's red light for fear of receiving home later. Voluntary tion is legal in the but soliciting on the banned.

Pakistan arrests seven Qatari hunting busters

KARACHI (R) — Wildlife officials have seven Qatari nationals to hunting rare falcons to protect Houbara bustard southern Sindh province, said Friday. These were reported arrests of foreign hunting, a sport among visitors from Arab states but now banned. The wildlife officials have five rare falcons remains of several bustard endangered bird that Pakistan from Central Asia winter. Another hunting escaped, the officials at huntsmen face two years onment and a fine of 5 million rupees (\$80,000).

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

6 dead in U.S. storms

BRANDON, Miss. (AP) — Tornado-like winds ripped through central Mississippi, killing at least six people and injuring many others, authorities and witnesses said. High winds Saturday night demolished trailers in a mobile home park in Brandon, where rescue workers used doors from the trailers as makeshift stretchers, said Charlie Wilkinson, Civil Defence director for Rankin County. At least two people were killed there, witnesses said. "I saw two fatalities myself, a pregnant lady and a small child," said Mike Wood, 36, who lives near the park. In Leesburg, a 35-year-old woman was killed, and a 10-year-old was killed in the town of Brandon, about 24 kilometres east of Jackson, the state capital, said Rankin County supervisor Jack Dennis.

Avalanche kills 7 in France

VAL THORENS, France (AP) — Seven skiers were killed when they were swept away by an avalanche at this resort in the southern French Alps, police reported. Four of them died despite resuscitation efforts by rescue workers on the scene, police said. It was the first avalanche of the ski season, which began early this year with the arrival of heavy snow earlier this month. A makeshift chapel was set up in Notre-Dame-De-La-Vie, a small town near Val Thorens. Officials said the resort would be closed Sunday as a sign of mourning.

Western Ukraine floods kill 17

KIEV (R) — Floods in western Ukraine have killed 17 people and caused millions of dollars in damage to houses and roads, officials said Sunday. A civil defence duty officer said mountain rivers in Transcarpathia burst their banks last week, inundating areas around the regional centre of Uzhgorod, a city of about 110,000 people. Bridges and electric power lines were damaged and farms flooded, but emergency services now have the situation under control.

Democracy returns to Peru with vote

LIMA, Peru (R) — Peruvians voted Sunday in congressional elections designed to restore constitutional rule suspended by President Alberto Fujimori in April. As the campaign wound down, police said they had dealt a serious blow to the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla movement which planned a series of bomb attacks to try to disrupt the vote. Senior officers said the arrest of eight Shining Path guerrillas Thursday and at least three Saturday showed they were destroying the group's military command. More than 100,000 police and troops were in the streets of Lima and provincial cities Sunday in case of guerrilla attacks.

Peace Corps volunteers in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Robert Walker doesn't fit the old stereotype of a Peace Corps volunteer, and he's not bashful about stating one of his reasons for working in the former Soviet Union "Career enhancement." Mr. Walker is among 100 experienced, market-wise volunteers who arrived Saturday in the Russian capital for a programme which marks the corps' full-circle conversion from cold war ditch-digging to free market consulting. The volunteers will undergo intensive language training for three months, then be deployed to five regions across Russia to work as consultants and resident experts at fledgling small businesses and farms. The average age of the group is 41, about 10 years older than in the past. The volunteers work in financial analysis, small businesses management, corporate law and other fields — vocations to which Peace Corps volunteers once might have aspired after their service, not during it. "I was on the yuppie track," said Walker, a food distribution manager for the Dole Pineapple Co. in San Francisco. He and his wife Kelly signed on to find "something a little more fulfilling. We've got the rest of lives to go 9-to-5."

Laotian president dies

BANGKOK (R) — Flags flew at half-mast in the Laotian capital of Vientiane Sunday in memory of President Kaysone Phomvihane, whose death marked the end of an era in a land largely forgotten since its days as a Vietnam war sideshow. Despite Mr. Kaysone's dominance of Laotian politics since the Communist Party he led assumed power in 1975, Western diplomats contacted in Vientiane said they did not expect any dramatic changes as a result of his death. However, one diplomat said elections for a new National Assembly, scheduled for Dec. 20, might be postponed to allow deliberation on the naming of a new president. Although Mr. Kaysone was known to have been ill, his death was unexpected and might have caught the leadership off guard, the diplomat said. There has been no official indication of a replacement for 71-year-old Kaysone, who died of an unspecified illness Saturday morning according to Laotian state radio.

De Klerk under pressure to step aside

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government, under fire over damning accusations about security force dirty tricks, is facing increasing pressure to make way for an interim elected administration, political leaders and analysts say.

"There have now been sufficient crises for the government to lose status as a credible negotiating partner. It now has to make way for an elected interim government with joint control over security forces," Brian Currin, director of Lawyers for Human Rights told Reuters Sunday.

Dealing the latest blow to reformist President F.W. de Klerk, the chief of a secret army unit which is suspected of killing government opponents, said he was told Mr. De Klerk pledged there would be no witch-hunt over security force dirty tricks.

Joe Verster, head of the covert Civil Cooperation Bureau (CCB), told a closed inquest into the murder of anti-apartheid activist David Webster, that a former head of the South African Defence Force told him the government accepted everything the CCB did "was in good faith," the Johannesburg Sunday Times reported.

The allegation follows disclosures by Judge Richard Goldstone, who heads a standing commission on political violence, that there was evidence senior military intelligence officers hired a twice-convicted murderer to discredit the black nationalist African National Congress (ANC).

Tony Leon, the Liberal Democratic Party spokesman on justice said there was circumstantial evidence that Mr. De Klerk was hostile to the military.

"Elements within the security forces are either undermining the government or acting in concert with the government according to a hidden agenda. Either option is dangerous. There is now an urgent need for a deal on an interim government," Mr. Leon said.

Rocky Williams, a military analyst said "securocrats" were holding a gun to Mr. De Klerk's apartheid reformed.

"The problem is that he (De Klerk) is in a process of transition and you do not cut off options when negotiating. He may need to fall back on their assistance and therefore has no alternative but to live with them," Mr. Williams said.

Judge Goldstone asked for more powers and resources to investigate wrongdoing by all armed forces of the government, the black opposition and pro-apartheid fighting groups. Mr. De Klerk offered extra police investigators but said the commission already had sufficient legal powers.

Signalling a tough line ahead of a government-ANC summit to be held soon, ANC President Nelson Mandela has threatened to abandon democracy talks unless there was an agreement soon on a date for the installation of an all-race interim government.

Typhoid reported in Bosnian towns

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed cases of typhoid in the western Bosnian town of Travnik where thousands of refugees are under threat from a Serb offensive, U.N. sources said Sunday.

Evidence of the highly infectious disease had also been found in Jajce, which has been captured by Serb forces, Zenica and Kakanj, the sources added.

The extent of the outbreak was not known but it will alarm aid workers trying to deal with a tide of displaced people driven from their homes in Bosnia by the war, many of them now living in makeshift conditions.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio made no mention Sunday morning of the military situation around Travnik where Serbs launched a major offensive Friday.

It said three civilians and a soldier were killed in Serb shelling of the northern town of Gradacac Saturday night. Other Muslim targets in central and northern Bosnia were also attacked.

Radio messages from Srebrenica in the east said 70,000 residents and refugees trapped by Serb forces were in danger of starvation and in urgent need of help.

Attempts by U.N. relief agencies to reach the town have been blocked by the Serbs who are trying to starve it into surrender.

In the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, there was sniper and machinegun fire in the old town throughout the night and shelling of Muslim suburbs.

The sustained Serb attack

fomenting the Bosnian war, NATO announced its warships Sunday would begin stopping and searching ships entering Yugoslav territorial waters.

Airborne radar and maritime patrol aircraft will assist the seven ships in coordination with forces of the Western European Union (WEU), another Defence alliance, NATO officials said in Naples, Italy.

On the political front, leaders of five opposition parties complained that they had been excluded from decision-making in Sarajevo even though they represented at least 25 per cent in Bosnia's voters.

Bosnia's legislature has been suspended during the war, and the five opposition parties are not represented on the seven-member collective presidency.

The five leaders told a news conference they had urged the reopening of the legislature and had asked for their parties to be represented at presidency meetings. The request was rejected, they said.

In a related development, the organisers of an Islamic meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina said Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, have been invited to attend.

The foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's member nations start their two-day conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Dec. 1. They are expected to press for international military intervention to halt the Serbs' onslaught against Bosnia's Muslims.

The capture of Travnik would open the road to Sarajevo, which has been under constant Serb siege for seven months.

In a bid to tighten the embargo imposed to punish Serbia for

Angolan rebels reject dialogue

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Angola's National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) opposition, which boycotted weekend national unity talks in Luanda, said Sunday that it favoured dialogue but not "with a noose around its neck."

UNITA's voice of the resistance of the black Cockerel Radio, in the former rebel movement's first formal comment on the Saturday talks, denounced the Nov. 1 killing of two top UNITA negotiators in clashes in the Angolan capital.

"UNITA has always favoured and will always favour dialogue," the radio said, quoting from a statement issued Saturday and signed by UNITA information secretary Jorge Alencar.

Some 400,000 Armenians and 100,000 Azeris have fled the zone of conflict, in which the agency says thousands have died.

Bosnians, besieged by Serbian and Croatian forces in "a deliberate strategy of terror against the population, aimed at redesigning the ethnic map of the country," said the agency, also known by its French acronym MSF. At least 24,000 have died throughout the former Yugoslav republics, including Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Kurds spanning areas of northern Iraq, eastern Turkey, parts of Iran, Syria and the Soviet Union. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government has razed 4,000 Kurdish villages in recent years and organised the "disappearance" of 180,000 Iraqi Kurds, the agency said. The United States, Britain and France had to intervene to save Iraqi Kurds from a brutal crackdown by the Iraqi army after the post-Gulf War Kurdish uprising failed.

Mozambicans, a fourth of whom — over 4 million people — rely on international food aid. Child mortality is the highest in the world. A third of the children die before age 5. In 15 years of civil war by the FRELIMO and RENAMO rebel groups, a million people have died, MSF said.

Peruvians who have been caught between the Shining Path leftist rebellion and the government's brutal attempt to suppress it. Since 1980, at least 25,000 people have been killed, mostly civilians.

Rohingyas, a Muslim group in Burma persecuted by the military government. Earlier this year more than 300,000 Rohingyas fled to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Somalis. Four million of the 7 million Somalis are in urgent need of food and half of them are dying of starvation, MSF said. An estimated 500 children die daily. A rebellion to oust the former dictator degenerated into anarchy as warlords of clans turned on each other.

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Relief agency says 11 population groups 'endangered'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The medical relief group Doctors Without Borders has identified the 11 minorities nationwide it considers most threatened by warfare and oppression.

"Our intention is to highlight current upheavals," said the group's president, Dr. Rony Brauman, "to bear witness to forgotten tragedies and reflect on the principles of humanitarian aid."

"We hope that by arousing awareness and a desire to understand, we will also stir up indignation and stimulate action," he said.

In its Monday report, French-based relief agency singled out 10 groups based on its experience in 60 countries providing medical and humanitarian aid:

— Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the Caucasus, where the two groups have been battling since 1980 for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan.

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